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Colombian plane crashes; 107 killed

BOGOTA (AP) — A Colombian passenger jet crashed in flames Monday outside Bogota, killed all 107 people on board, aviation officials said. Witnesses said the jet blew apart in the air. The chief of the civil aviation authority, Jorge Gonzalez, said the crew of a Colombian air force jet flying in the area saw two explosions on the Avianca Airlines Boeing 727-100. Witnesses also reported seeing the plane explode before it plummeted to the ground around 7:15 a.m. (1215 GMT). Avianca spokeswoman Patricia Duarte said the plane crashed into a hilly area just south of Bogota, the capital. The airline refused comments on reports the plane exploded. Edgar Lesi, chief of the national police in the state of Cundinamarca, said investigators had found nothing to indicate a bomb exploded aboard the plane. No one on the ground appeared to have been hurt, Gonzalez said. Officials at the control tower at El Dorado airport in Bogota said the jet crashed three minutes after taking off for the city of Cali, 30 kilometres to the southwest. It quoted the flight controller as saying the pilot reported everything normal seconds before contact with the plane was lost.

Soviet troops seal off Caucasus city

MOSCOW (R) — Troops sealed off a city in the Caucasus mountains after clashes between Georgians and Ossetians in the Soviet Union's newest ethnic trouble spot, local journalists and officials said Monday. The South Ossetians were sheltering in their capital, Tskhinvali, surrounded by Soviet Interior Ministry troops who have been fending off Georgian demonstrators since the weekend, spokesmen for both sides said. Ossetian officials in Tskhinvali said 21 people had been hurt in clashes between the two nationalities, but a Georgian journalist, who works for the newspaper Molodyozh Gruzii, denied anyone was injured. The violence flared after the regional government council of South Ossetia, an autonomous region within the Republic of Georgia, on Nov. 10 demanded republic status for itself and unification with North Ossetia, part of the Russian Federation. "We are under siege, "said a Communist Party official at the South Ossetian regional party headquarters in Tskhinvali. "It is a standoff between 800 and 900 Interior Ministry troops were guarding the city of 40,000 against Georgian demonstrators who started arriving Friday in hundreds of buses and cars.

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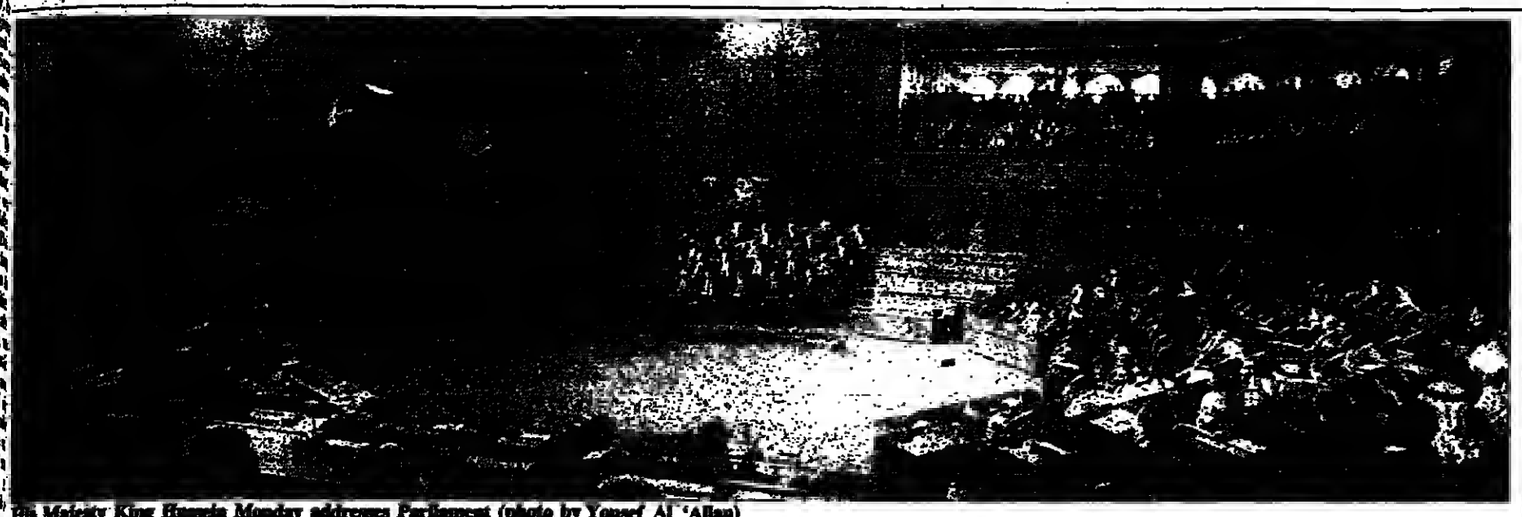

His Majesty King Hussein Monday addresses Parliament (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Jordan's 11th Parliament begins regular session

King vows to pursue change

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein Monday opened Jordan's 11th parliament with a pledge to press ahead with democratic changes in the Kingdom and work towards legalising political parties and limiting the application of martial law.

In his traditional speech from the Throne to the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament, the King reviewed Jordan's past and present and vowed that the executive authority would continue its quest towards achieving self-reliance for the Kingdom in all spheres.

Underlining that the Nov. 8 general elections, which produced the new 80-member Lower House, were characterised by openness and freedom for the voter and government impartiality and integrity, the King said the democratic process in Jordan had challenged the speculation of "our enemies and the covetous" that our country was on the verge of a dark labrynth, which would lead Jordan into splinter and collapse."

"This, they hoped, would pave the way to substantiating the 'Jordan is the solution' slogan, instead of admitting that the only solution to the Palestinian problem lies in recognising Palestinian rights on Palestinian soil," he added.

Addressing the two houses, the Council of Ministers, senior officials, notables, tribal leaders, trade and professional union leaders and other invited guests packing the domed Parliament House, the King outlined the political, economic and social measures and moves adopted by the government.

On the political front, the King reaffirmed Jordan's staunch support for the Palestinian people and their struggle for liberation and independence, and paid tribute to the 23-month-old uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The revolt, the King said, "enabled the Palestinian people to assert itself and its just cause in a manner that earned it international attention unprecedented in the past four decades."

In the speech, broadcast live on Jordan television and radio, the King, wearing the traditional black and gold military uniform decorated with medals and citations, said his July 1988 decision to sever legal and administrative links with the West Bank has had no bearing on the Kingdom's "commitment to support and stand by Palestinian national rights."

"Jordan continued to stand by its twin brother, the Arab Palestinian people, in its fair struggle," he added.

He reiterated Jordan's firm belief that an international conference on the Middle East with the participation of all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), was the best forum to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"It has become clear to the whole world that the Palestinian leadership has fulfilled, with true commitment, what was required of it to facilitate progress in the peace conference and that Israel is the side that continues to thwart progress," the King said. "We are confident that the brave Palestinian position, supported by a steady and cohesive Arab stand, will continue to expose the Israeli position in a manner that will align the whole international community against the Israeli position."

The King expressed hope that United Nations efforts to arrive at a negotiated settlement between Iran and Iraq would be successful to end the no-war-no-peace situation between the two countries. He called on Iran to "respond to the human need to exchange prisoners of war and return them to their families, through commitment to the noble sharia and in keeping with international laws."

On Lebanon, the King renewed Jordan's firm support for the Arab League-mediated peace plan worked out by Lebanese parliamentarians in Taif, Saudi Arabia, last month and expressed hope that "all Lebanese factions will abide by this agreement to achieve their common goals."

He denounced the assassination last week of Lebanese President Rene Muawad and wished his successor, Elias Hrawi, "success in bearing his historic responsibility, certain that his election constitutes a major step towards the implementation of the Taif accord."

On the internal front, the King told Parliament that the government would work towards limiting martial law and allow political parties to operate in the Kingdom — in essence lifting the ban imposed on all political groupings in 1956.

Abolition of martial law and lifting the ban on political parties figured high among the slogans adopted by many of the 80 deputies in their election campaigns.

In a press conference shortly after the Nov. 8 elections, the King said the government had used martial law provisions only sparingly for political purposes and mostly in cases of threats to national security and public interest. On Monday, he told Parliament that "the government will review the legislations which have become a handicap to the progress of the society... and will also concentrate on its efforts to give the various courts all the support they need to perform their duties completely, competently and speedily to reduce gradually the need for special courts."

Outlining the course towards lifting the ban on political parties, the King said a royal commission would be formed to draft a national charter, which will contain "the basic general concepts of nationalism and patriotism that will guide the nation and direct it" and "the emergence and activity of political organisations will be based on these concepts and definitions."

He also reaffirmed that the national charter would be presented to the people for a referendum "so that it becomes the product of a comprehensive national decision."

The King said the government was fully committed to fighting "any kind of financial crimes or administrative delinquency," and pointed out that a special committee had already been formed to study the various aspects of "economic criminality in preparation to presenting adequate legislation for coping with this scourge that has to be expunged from our society."

The government will also set up a special authority to keep a close watch and scrutiny over

(Continued on page 3)

Tension mounts in Lebanon as Aoun refuses to budge

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Tension mounted in Beirut Monday as President Elias Hrawi's 48-hour ultimatum to defiant army chief Michel Aoun ticked towards its Tuesday deadline.

"Lebanon is living through very dark hours," said the French-language L'Orient-le Jour newspaper in a front-page comment.

President Hrawi, elected Friday two days after his predecessor was assassinated, Sunday ordered General Aoun to submit to his authority. Aoun vowed to fight to the death the president he considers a Syrian tool.

On both sides of the green line battlezone, residents weary of 14 years of war speculated whether Hrawi's threat to attack Aoun was a bluff.

Some people in west Beirut have left the battered capital. Others said they were thinking of leaving.

Seven ont of 10 men and women interviewed at random in east Beirut's Sinn Al Fil district believed Hrawi's threat was a scare tactic. Two did not answer this point and one said he expected an attack. Most declined to be named.

Nine out of 10 said Christian civilians would fight in any offensive alongside Aoun's 15,000 mainly Christian regulars.

The Syrian-backed Hrawi said that if he had to, he would use force to oust the general.

"In case he wants to force us, it will not be war — it will be an operation of a few hours to put an end to all these stories happening in Christian areas," he told reporters.

But Aoun vowed to die fighting even with "kitchen knives, sticks and stones."

He also told a news conference in the underground bunker of the shell-smashed palace that he was recruiting volunteers to help fight a possible assault.

But despite Hrawi's ultimatum and Aoun's tough response, military sources discounted reports of buildups in mountains overlooking the palace in Baabda, a suburb just east of the capital.

A ranking Muslim officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, said: "There is absolutely no move on the ground to suggest that a collision is imminent."

He said: "The fronts are as they have been since the ceasefire," which took hold on Sept. 22, ending six months of fighting between Aoun's 20,000 troops and the Syrian army.

Hrawi issued a statement at his temporary headquarters in the Bekaa Valley town of Chtoura, urging the army to rally behind his legitimate government.

"Gen. Aoun is placing the Lebanese nation at an impossible, destructive and reckless option that leads only to the underground shelters.... while the presidency has decided to lead the nation out of the death mill to peace," the statement said.

Palestinians prepare for house demolition by troops

RAMALLAH, Occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israeli police fired teargas Monday at a crowd of Palestinians chanting nationalist slogans as they salvaged property from a house scheduled for demolition by the army.

"The court ruling stated the house is to be demolished within one week, but we never know when it will happen," Mahmoud Shukri said outside his home.

The Israeli high court earlier rejected an appeal filed some two months ago by the Shukri family against a military order for the destruction of their home.

Shukri said he filed the petition after his younger brother, Ahmad Shukri, 26, was arrested for trying to force an Israeli passenger bus into a valley. Ahmad, also convicted of killing a Jewish worker before the bus attack, was jailed for life.

As soon as they heard of the court decision, neighbours and friends started tearing doors, windows and electricity sockets from the Shukri house.

"We are trying to salvage whatever we can before they come and blow up the building," said a neighbour as he hammered at the concrete wall to retrieve an iron window frame.

Israeli policemen patrolling the area fired tear-gas after a teen-age boy climbed up to display the banned red, white, green and black Palestinian flag.

Meanwhile, an Islamic fundamentalist gronp Monday praised the killing of Israeli soldiers and called for more ambushes on troops in the third year of the Palestinian uprising.

The call for increasing attacks came in a leaflet issued by the fundamentalist Hamas, and distributed in the West Bank.

Also Monday, Arab reports said that a Palestinian shot and wounded in the neck by Israeli troops during a clash last April died of his injuries in a Cairo hospital.

Egypt asks PLO to redraft response to Baker formula

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt is urging the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to redraft its response to U.S. proposals for direct Palestinian-Israeli talks in Cairo after deciding the original reply was incomplete, diplomats and official sources said Monday.

"In Egypt's assessment it was considered incomplete ... it needs more work and consultation," an Egyptian Foreign Ministry source told Reuters.

Egypt received Tuesday the PLO's response to a revised five-point formula proposed U.S. Secretary of State James Baker setting out terms for formal face-to-face Palestinian-Israeli talks.

But official sources said Egypt, the main mediator between the PLO and the United States, refused to convey the reply officially to Washington.

Western diplomats said Cairo wanted the PLO to produce some kind of response which would mirror Israel's conditional acceptance of the U.S. formula.

Israel says it will agree to the Baker plan on condition that the PLO is excluded from the talks and the agenda is limited to its own proposal for Palestinian elections in the occupied territories.

Arab diplomats said the PLO's reply to the original formula demanded written guarantees that it had the right to name the Palestinian delegation and that the talks would have an open agenda.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid met the PLO's representative in Cairo, Said Kamal, Monday and an Arab diplomat said the talks focused on drafting a more "positive" response.

Foreign Ministry sources said Abdul Meguid had contacted Washington and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat several times since receiving the PLO's reply.

"The PLO had questions and clarifications and we onpassed them to Washington. We are still in consultation with both parties and the final response has not been made yet," one source said.

Last week, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak urged the PLO openly for the first time to come np with a positive response.

A Palestinian source said the PLO was working on a new draft and Foreign Ministry sources said Arafat, a frequent visitor to Cairo, was expected shortly in Egypt for further talks.

Arar elected House speaker in balloting coloured by politics

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The different political colours that make up the newly-elected Lower House of Parliament surfaced Monday at its first session to dominate the floor in what could be seen as an insight into the shape of things to come from debates in the House in its future sessions.

While some of the Islamist deputies attached a pledge not to work outside the will of God and Prophet Mohammad to the traditional Constitutional oath of office, the "democratic bloc" displayed their power muscles in swinging results of any balloting by taking a unanimous or at least a majority decision among themselves.

The first indication of the democratic bloc's might as the holder of balance of power in the House became evident in the race for the House speakership, which was claimed by Sulaiman Arar, a former interior minister, with a clear majority of 44 votes against 36 secured by Yousef Mbaideen, a declared candidate of the Muslim Brotherhood, which claims control of 32 to 34 votes in the House.

Abdul Baqi Gammo, the oldest deputy, presided over the session as acting speaker until the formal election was over.

In the first round of balloting, members of the 16-strong democratic bloc cast their votes in favour of Laith Shbeilat, who managed to secure a total of 14 votes against 31 for Arar and 35 for Mbaideen. Another six votes would have done the trick for Mbaideen to secure an absolute of 41 votes in the 80-member House, but the apparent choice of some democratic bloc members deprived him of the chance to lead the Muslim Brotherhood's voice.

Although he was short of four votes to match Mbaideen in the first round, Arar was able to maintain a smile of confidence since he was assured of enough democratic bloc votes as well as the support of first-round supporters of Shbeilat to see him through the way across the floor to the speakership podium in the second round of voting.

Arar's confidence was well-founded. In the second round of voting, he secured another 13 votes — clearly from those who voted for Shbeilat in the first round — and won the race.

As Gammo announced Arar's victory and invited him to formally take over the speakership chair, loud applause rang out from the balconies of the domed Parliament chamber from people who had been waiting for over six hours to see who would clinch the influential post of speaker and thus signal the tide in Parliament proceedings.

Arar proceeded to read a prepared speech from the speaker's chair.

"I thank His Majesty King Hussein in your name for opening the windows and allowing the warm and rejuvenating breeze to come into our country carrying democracy and public participation," he said in the speech.

Suleiman Arar

He also thanked the executive authority for its handling of the Nov. 8 election and for "conducting it in the spirit of democracy and freedom which the whole attested to and every citizen felt."

"The era has gone when only Israel, which practises apartheid democracy, can claim that it is the only democratic state in the region," Arar said underlining one of the major elements that the Jordanian elections brought out in regional politics.

He pledged to remain unbiased in face of the different political lines reflected among the deputies and to allow all of them to express their opinions and their parliamentary privileges without any discrimination.

He also pledged to work on ensuring the independence of the legislative authority as stipulaed in the Constitution and to protect it "with all honesty and faith so that your honoured House can fulfil its duties and practice the role assigned to it by the Constitution."

He said he foresaw the Parliament becoming "the real bridge between the public and government institutions and the effective supervisor of all government

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Senate meets, elects deputies to Lawzi

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — In accordance with the Royal Decree of Nov. 22, the 40-appointed members of the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) were sworn into office Monday morning in the presence of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and his government, the House of Representatives and an estimated 2,500 people attending the first session of the newly-elected Lower House and appointed Upper House. The senators took an oath to serve and protect the King, country and constitution.

Another Royal Decree issued last Wednesday appointed 40 members to the Senate, which had previously consisted of 30 senators, in accordance with Article 63 of the Constitution which stipulates that the Senate, including the speaker, should be half of the number of deputies in the Lower House. The Lower House now consists of 80 representatives.

The Royal Decree reappointed Ahmad Lawzi as speaker of the Senate. After being introduced by Hani Khair, secretary general of Parliament, Lawzi opened the session.

Lawzi thanked His Majesty King Hussein for opening the first session of Parliament and said that the Senate would do its utmost to diligently serve the King, country and people. He thanked the government of Ben Shaker for making free elections possible.

Lawzi said he looked forward to close cooperation between Lower and Upper Houses as well as a good working relationship between the executive and legislative branches.

He voiced confidence that the legislative branch would shoulder its share of responsibility in solving the economic challenges facing the country and said that "as we have dealt with challenges in the past and have overcome them we will overcome them in the future."

The majority of the senators in a vote of hands elected senators Khalil Salem, Akram Zuater, Laila Sharaf and Juma Hamad as members of a committee which will prepare the Senate's reply to the speech from the Throne.

In another vote of hands, senators Bahjat Talhouni and Ahmad Obeidat were elected as first and second deputies to speaker Lawzi.

Lawzi, obviously anxious to allow the Lower House to convene, shortened the first session of the Senate meeting by postponing the election of the legal, financial, administrative and foreign affairs committees of the Senate till the second session of the Upper House.

According to the constitution, senators should be over 40 years old, must have held one or more of the following positions prior to being appointed to the Senate; present or former prime ministers, ministers, ambassadors, ministers plenipotentiary, speakers of the chamber of deputies, presidents and judges of the court of cassation and of the civil and Sharia court of appeal, retired military officers of the rank of lieutenant-general and above, former deputies and similar personalities.

Of the 40 senators sworn into office, Monday, three have held

(Continued on page 3)

India parliament dissolved; coalition in the offing

NEW DELHI (R) — The Indian parliament was dissolved Monday after Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party suffered major election losses.

President Ramaswamy Venkataraman ordered the dissolution on Gandhi's advice with most indications suggesting the opposition would be given a chance to form the new government.

Senior Congress officials said it was only a matter of time before Gandhi conceded defeat. They added the party had decided not to seek a coalition partner in an attempt to stay in power.

Reuters earlier erroneously reported that Gandhi had tendered his resignation to Venkataraman.

Top government officials said the report was wrong and added that any concession of defeat would come only towards the end of vote-counting.

Final results from the three-stage polls in the world's biggest democracy were expected Tuesday with a hung parliament a certainty and no party able to rule alone.

Congress, which went into the elections with 415 seats in the 545-member parliament. It gained in the south in the polls ending Sunday but was heading for humiliation in the north.

The party officials said the Congress decision not to seek a coalition partner almost certainly meant the opposition would be invited to form an administration for only the second time since India became independent from Britain in 1947.

They said Gandhi would probably be asked to stay on as caretaker prime minister while the usually fractious opposition tried to put a government together.

India's only previous non-Congress government lasted two years before collapsing in 1979.

Senior Congress officials said that if the opposition managed to form a government again it would not even last that long.

Many Congress members advocated the party should quietly go into opposition, they said. It could then relax and watch an opposition National Front government struggle to survive and sweep back to power when it collapsed.

Other Congress sources, however, argued that was a dangerous option. Knowing it could not afford to mount another major election campaign soon, the opposition would bend over backwards to stay together, they said.

The haggling among opposition groups began well before final results were known with the right-wing Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) emerging as the likely key to the formation of a National Front government.

Afghan rebels free 2 Soviet prisoners

Rebel rockets kill 18 people in Kabul

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — A rebel rocket attack killed at least 18 people in the Afghan capital Kabul Sunday, the official Bakhtar News Agency said Monday.

Rockets also injured dozens of people and caused "tremendous material losses" in residential areas, a Bakhtar report monitored in Islamabad said.

The report blamed the attack on "Pakistan-backed extremists," a reference to guerrillas fighting the Soviet-backed Kabul government of President Najibullah.

The rebels have frequently rocketed Kabul in recent months.

Meanwhile two Soviet soldiers held captive for more than two years by Afghan rebels were released to their mothers Monday in an emotional ceremony in the Pakistani frontier city of Peshawar.

Soviet Ambassador Vietor Y[illegible] that a recip[illegible] 53 prisoners — [illegible] fighters but [illegible] Arabs who [illegible] rebels — would [illegible] Kabul.

[illegible] Andrei Lopukh V[illegible] Prokapchuk, both [illegible], hugged and wept [illegible] their mothers as they were reunited at the headquarters of the Pakistan-based rebel alliance. Peshawar is less than 80 kilometres from the Afghan border.

"I'm very happy that I just saw my son and I know that he's coming home," said a tearful Valentina Prokapchuk.

Dozens of rebel fighters toting Soviet-made AK-47 assault rifles stood guard in their grey dress uniforms, while Pakistan police formed a security ring around the fortress-like rebel headquarters.

Yakunin described the prisoner release as a "high act of humanitarianism."

Yakunin, Sayed Gailani, acting president of the rebels' self-proclaimed government and representatives of the Pakistan Foreign Ministry and the International Committee of the Red Cross attended the outdoor ceremony under a sunny sky.

Before the rebels, who call themselves Mujahedeen or Islamic holy warriors, released the 20-year-old prisoners they lectured the mothers, who were part of a seven-member private delegation from the Soviet Union.

"I understand that not only these women are weeping today, there are probably many more weeping in the Soviet Union," said Farooq Azam, an official of the Mujahedeen government.

"But let me remind you that thousands of Afghan mothers are crying over the loss of their children," he said.

Gailani said the prisoner release was "ample proof of our good intentions.

"Though the war is not yet over we are releasing two more Soviet prisoners to show our humane motives... in spite of the fact that thousands of our people are held by the Kabul regime and the Soviet Union as prisoners."

He criticised the Soviet Union for continuing to supply the Afghan government after ending direct military involvement in February.

In December 1979, the Kremlin sent more than 100,000 combat troops into Afghanistan to replace one Communist government with another and crush a growing insurgency.

The last Soviet soldier left in February, in line with a United Nations-brokered accord.

Iona Andronov, spokesman of Nadezhka (hope), a private group that works for the release of Soviet PoWs, thanked the Mujahedeen leaders and apologised for what he termed "this bloody war and stupid war, which was started by the politicians and generals."

Hizbollah established network of operatives in Africa

LOS ANGELES (Agencies) — The Shi'ite Muslim extremist group Hizbollah has established a network of operatives in West Africa that may be preparing attacks against Western targets, a U.S. newspaper reported Monday.

Hizbollah agents are active in the Ivory Coast, Senegal, Gabon, Guinea and possibly other countries, the Los Angeles Times reported, citing unidentified U.S. and French officials.

As Western intelligence agencies have focused on [illegible] Lebanon, Hizbollah [illegible] have moved to create an alternative arms network in West Africa as [illegible]

French authorities believe a group linked to Hizbollah took [illegible] in bombing a French [illegible] that exploded [illegible] tremist groups, believed [illegible] to Hizbollah, have claimed to have taken [illegible] Hizbollah [illegible] sponsibility but have acknowledged contact with the groups.

On Saturday, Spanish police announced the arrests of eight people involved in an attempt to smuggle at least 109 kilogrammes of explosives into Spain in canned goods. Three of the eight were suspected Hizbollah members, police said.

In recent months, French officials have discovered security breaches at their embassies in Guinea, Gabon, Senegal and Tunisia involving the sale of passports and intelligence cables to Hizbollah agents, the newspaper said.

In the most serious incident, a French consular official in Conakry, Guinea, provided 100 identity cards and 60 passports to a Shi'ite cell, the Times said. The scheme surfaced when a Lebanese national carrying one of the passports blew himself up with a homemade bomb in London last summer, French diplomats told the newspaper.

In Dakar, Senegal, officials reportedly caught a French embassy employee selling French identity cards to another group of Lebanese. And in Brazzaville, Congo, where the doomed UTA French airline flight originated, a security breach involved stolen diplomatic cables, the newspaper said.

Most of the French consular officials involved were contract workers who had served in Beirut or had Lebanese connections, French officials said. Several were arrested.

Intelligence officials suspect the agents operate among tens of thousands of Shi'ite Muslim emigres who work in the region. A State Department source told the Times there was no evidence that Iran has sponsored the implantation of the cells.

Hizbollah denied Sunday any links with the three men arrested in Spain.

"The Party of God, which categorically denies any links with this subject, confirms that those whose names were published don't have any relations with Hizbollah," a statement by the group said.

Hizbollah said it suspected the allegations were made only to justify "aggressive activities against the committed Muslims in Spain."

Ethiopia, Eritrean rebels invited Nyerere for mediation — Carter

ATLANTA (AP) — Former President Carter said the Ethiopian government and Eritrean rebels invited former Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere to help mediate talks to end 28 years of civil war.

The accord marks the end of preliminary negotiations between the two sides that should lead to substantive talks to stop the war, Carter told the Atlanta Constitution in an interview.

The decision to invite Nyerere to join him as co-chairman of the main talks was the last of 12 items on the agenda for preliminary talks, Carter said during a diplomatic shuttle mission through Sudan and Ethiopia.

Although the preliminary talks in Nairobi almost broke down twice, "both sides got what they wanted by Saturday," Carter said. All that remains is to name observers to the main talks, he said.

Carter said it may be several weeks before a decision is made on the time and place of the talks because the government and Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) delegates must confer with leaders at home.

Delegates from both sides agreed on most negotiating issues two months ago in Atlanta, and resumed the talks in Nairobi to conclude the preliminary talks, Carter said.

Carter said he expects Nyerere, who has been travelling in the Far East, to accept the invitation. "He has indicated in the past that he would if the invitation came from both sides, and not just from me," Carter said.

While the negotiating teams took a break Sunday, Carter flew through Sudan and Ethiopia.

He met for 90 minutes in Khartoum with Sudanese President Omar Hassan Al Bashir, whose government will begin preliminary peace talks with rebels in southern Sudan Friday.

2 Lebanese prisoners killed in Al Khiam

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli-backed militiamen shot and killed two detainees in a South Lebanon prison during a riot by inmates demanding that Shi'ite Muslim militias free them as part of an exchange with Israel, military sources said Monday.

The unrest Monday night at Al Khiam prison just north of the village of Marjayoun followed reports from Lebanon that an unknown Palestinian group had offered to exchange the body of an Israeli soldier for the freeing of Arab prisoners.

One of the sources, who, in keeping with army regulations spoke on condition of anonymity, said prisoners called on the leaders of Hezbollah and Amal, both Lebanese Shi'ite militias, to secure their release as part of a swap.

Guards from the Israeli-allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) militias fatally shot two prisoners during the rioting, another source said.

Israel Radio estimated the number of detainees at Khaim, a former Lebanese army barracks, at 400, many of them Shi'ites, The prisoners include both criminal and guerrilla suspects.

The Israeli army has declined comment on the swap offer published Saturday in the Beirut daily An Nahar by a group calling itself the Organization for Freeing Palestinian Prisoners.

Published with the statement was a photograph of the identity papers of soldier Ilan Saadon, who disappeared last May while hitchhiking home from his base in southern Israel, near the occupied Gaza Strip.

The army issued a statement on Nov. 7 saying officials believed Saadon had been killed by members of the Palestinian Muslim fundamentalist group Hamas, although his body has not been found.

The same day the army announced the capture of several Hamas members suspected of involvement in the attack.

Libyan delegation arrive in Tunis

TUNIS (R) — A high-level Libyan delegation led by Major Abdul Salam Jalloud arrived in Tunis Monday for two days of talks on political and economic coordination between Libya and Tunisia.

Prime Minister Hamed Karoui heads the Tunisian side in the meetings of a high commission which was set up when relations dramatically improved after Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali came to power two years ago.

Jalloud, second in the Libyan hierarchy, was accompanied by Major Khoueldi Hamidi, third in the hierarchy, Omar Al Montasser, secretary-general of the General People's Committee (prime minister) and Foreign Minister Jaddallah Azzouz Al Talhi, officials said.

Since the commission last met in Tripoli in July, Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has upset Tunis by receiving Rashed Ghannouchi, the Tunisian Islamic leader who was lived abroad in self-imposed exile since May.

Fateh predicted to win West Bank elections

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli military officers believe PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fateh movement would win popular elections proposed by Israel in the occupied West Bank, the Haaretz daily reported Monday.

The newspaper quoted military sources as saying supporters of Fateh would gain 65 per cent of the vote, while Muslim fundamentalists would garner 30 per cent. Other votes would go to small left-wing PLO factions, it said.

Haaretz did not name the army officials quoted and gave no explanation of how they reached their conclusions. The military command declined to comment on the report.

The Haaretz report did not deal with the occupied Gaza Strip, where fundamentalist groups are believed to have more support than in the West Bank.

The report came amid a stalemate in efforts to promote an Israeli plan to hold elections in the two territories in which Palestinians would choose representatives to talks on an interim period of self-rule.

Palestinians have balked at accepting the election plan because it does not give the PLO a role in peace talks or lead to independent statehood.

The predictions concerning the popularity of Muslim fundamentalists represent a recent increase in support for such religious movements in the West Bank, which was once more solidly behind the PLO, the newspaper said.

The newspaper quoted the military officers as saying support for religious groups is expected to grow as long as peace efforts remain deadlocked.

Some 1.7 Palestinians live in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which Israel occupied in the 1967 Middle East war. Palestinians in the two territories have been carrying out an uprising against Israeli occupation for nearly two years.

During the revolt, 616 Palestinians have been killed by Israelis and 150 others have been slain by fellow Arabs as suspected collaborators.

British hostage spends 4th birthday in captivity

BEIRUT (R) — The friends and relatives of British hostage John McCarthy, who is spending his fourth birthday in captivity, sent him greetings and pleaded with his captives to allow him to contact his family.

"To the people who are holding our friend John McCarthy we appeal to you to allow him contact with his family, through whatever means you choose," said one of the 12 messages advertised in the As Safir newspaper.

"This three and a half year silence disarms us in our efforts to galvanise our government and others to resolve this situation and helps those who choose to remain indifferent. Please send us news of John," it added.

McCarthy, 33, is a journalist with Worldwide Television News. He was kidnapped on April 17, 1986 and his abduction was claimed by the Revolutionary Command Cells.

"To John. We pray that this will be your last birthday in captivity and we long to have you home soon," said a message signed by his father Pat McCarthy.

McCarthy's mother died while he was in captivity.

"I'll be thinking of you today as always and hope you can feel all the love over here heading in your direction," read a message by his girlfriend Jill Morrell, who has been campaigning for his release with a group of his friends since his kidnap.

"John, not a day has passed without you being in our thoughts. Keep strong. We look forward to seeing you soon," wrote Justin Tripcia and Jonathan McCarthy.

Two other British nationals are among 19 Westerners kidnapped in Lebanon. Most are believed held by shadowy pro-Iranian groups.

The two Britons are Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite who disappeared on Jan. 20, 1987 and teacher Brian Keenan who went missing on April 11, 1986. There were no claims of responsibility for their abductions.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Iran holds anti-guerrilla exercise

NICOSIA (R) — About 600,000 paramilitary troops set up road blocks, searched cars and took up positions at government buildings Monday in anti-guerrilla exercises held in Iranian cities, Tehran Radio reported. It said the manoeuvres aimed to display "power and readiness of the Basij (Mobilisation) forces against threats of world arrogance." The exercise has become part of annual activities marking the anniversary of the formation of the Basij forces 10 years ago on the orders of the last revolutionary leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Khomeini's successor, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, said last week that the Basij should expand its role as a combat-oriented force during the 1980-1988 war against Iraq to take part in the post-war economic reconstruction. He said the Basij was essential to defend Iran's revolution and must continue its drive to realise Khomeini's vision of a 20-million-man Islamic army. Basij officials say the force sent three million men to the war of whom 60,000 were killed in battle against Iraq — half of Iran's official death toll at the front. The force, which comes under the command of the Revolutionary Guards, has trained a total of five million Iranians in using weapons, they say. Many Basij members are students, farmers or workers who join the force's cells, often operating out of mosques, on a part-time basis.

Somali rebels kill 20 troops

NAIROBI (R) — Rebels in northern Somalia said Monday they killed 20 government soldiers when they ambushed an army lorry Thursday. The clandestine radio of the rebel Somali National Movement said the ambush took place on the main road from Hargeisa, the main town in northern Somalia, to Boroma, a town near the Ethiopian border in the extreme northwest of the country. The broadcast, monitored in Nairobi, said there were no rebel losses in the engagement.

Annex parts of occupied areas — Sharon

TEL AVIV (R) — Trade and Industry Minister Ariel Sharon has proposed that Israel annex part of the occupied territories in conjunction with proposed elections for Palestinians living there. Sharon, a senior member of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's right-wing Likud Party, blasted his government's current plan to hold Palestinian elections for representatives to negotiate an interim arrangement in the occupied territories. He said Israel should annex areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip agreed on by the Labour and Likud parties which share power in a coalition government. "I suggested that on those areas, the chain of Jewish settlements, we have to impose Israeli law together with elections in Judea, Samaria (Biblical names of West Bank and Gaza)," Sharon said in a radio interview. The former defence minister, who orchestrated Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982, is a strong backer of some 70,000 Jewish settlers living among 1.7 million Palestinians in the occupied territories. Sharon, a rival to Shamir for Likud Party leadership, discounted the premier's election plan as a prelude to the establishment of a Palestinian state. "The elections in the way they are presented by us will lead to a Palestinian state," Sharon said. "This approach in my opinion is mistaken."

'Qadhafi happy with summit'

VALLETTA (R) — Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi is happy about the holding of next weekend's superpower summit off Malta, Prime Minister Eddie Fenech Adami said Sunday after a visit to Tripoli. The Maltese leader said Qadhafi had told him during the one-day visit that he welcomed the shipborne summit between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on Dec. 2 and 3.

Peres arrives in Poland

WARSAW (R) — Shimon Peres, Israel's vice premier and minister of finance, arrived in Warsaw Monday for talks with President Wojciech Jaruzelski and Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski.

The Polish News Agency (PAP) said Peres' visit was aimed at developing cooperation between Israel and Poland which will eventually result in establishing diplomatic relations.

"Economic issues are certain to dominate the talks," PAP said. Trade with Israel this year will amount to $40 million compared to $22.3 million last year, the news agency said.

On his departure from Tel Aviv, Peres praised the sweeping political reforms in Eastern Europe and said the changes also bore significance for the Middle East.

"You've got to understand that with the tremendous changes occurring in the Soviet Bloc, which is foregoing its one-sided approach to the Middle East, nobody in this area can now claim exclusively in its relationship with the Communist Bloc," he said.

Following his arrival, Peres went to the Foreign Ministry for talks with Skubiszewski. He was scheduled to meet later with Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the non-Communist head of Poland's parliament, and Lech Walesa, the leader of the Solidarity trade federation.

Before his arrival in Warsaw, Peres told Israel Radio that he plans to lay the groundwork for increased economic cooperation between the two countries.

He said he believed Israel could help the Polish government's attempts to revive its economy and build technologically advanced industry.

Poland followd the Soviet lead in renewing low-level diplomatic relations with Israel last year, broken during the 1967 Middle East war.

The news agency quoted Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Jan Majewski as saying Poland "is considering the possibility of resuming diplomatic relations with Israel in the not-to-distant future, but no decision has been taken yet."

Peres, born in Poland, said he had no plans to visit his birthplace, the town of Visheva, because it is now part of the Soviet Union.

Israeli minister in Moscow

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's Minister of Agriculture left for the highest-level visit to the Soviet Union by an Israeli since the Kremlin severed diplomatic ties 22 years ago, his spokesman said Monday.

Avraham Katz-Oz, who earlier this year was left stranded in Europe when he failed to receive a Soviet visa, and meetings scheduled with the ministers of agriculture of the Soviet Union and the Russian Republic, said Naftali Yaniv.

The Soviet visit starting Monday marks another step toward full relations, which Moscow cut because of the 1967 Middle East war.

The two countries have exchanged consular delegations, but even the visa for Katz-Oz had to be issued in Vienna.

"We were so cautious this time since we had a problem three months ago," Yaniv told Reuters. He said the trip was supposed to have been kept secret until the minister arrived in Moscow.

Katz-Oz left Israel Sunday night after clearing the visit with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and Foreign Minister Moshe Arens, Yaniv said. The Soviet visa was granted only at the end of last week.

The official meetings end Friday, Yaniv said, but the minister was likely to stay to visit the synagogue in Moscow Saturday.

Yaniv said the minister, officially invited by the Soviet Academy of Sciences, would be discussing exports of fresh Israeli agricultural produce through a joint venture.

A firm owned by the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture, Agridem, has teamed up with the Soviet Academy of Sciences to form a trade company called Agromir, he said.

Yaniv said the produce would have to be flown to the Soviet Union. Resumption of direct Israeli-Soviet flights, stopped at the same time as diplomatic relations, is expected by early next year.

The Soviet Union has moved cautiously but methodically toward resuming full diplomatic relations since Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev took office nearly five years ago.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 ..... Koran
15:40 ..... Programme review
15:45 ..... Children programmes
18:00 ..... News summary in Arabic
18:05 ..... Local programme
19:10 ..... Agricultural programme
19:45 ..... Programme review
20:00 ..... News in Arabic
20:30 ..... Arabic series
21:30 ..... Programme review
21:40 ..... Local programme
23:00 ..... News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 ..... Documentary
19:00 ..... News in French
19:15 ..... Aujourd'Hui En Jordanie
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew
20:00 ..... News in Arabic
20:30 ..... Different world
21:00 ..... Super Sense
21:30 ..... Baby Boom
22:00 ..... News in English
22:30 ..... Winter

[illegible]

..... Fajr
..... *(Sunrise) Duha*
..... Dhuhr
..... [illegible]
17:58 ..... 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Swelleh Tel. 810740.
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785, 685326.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel: 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 628543.
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.
Amman International Church Tel. 685326.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 811295.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair and winds will be light and variable becoming southwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

	Min./max. temp.
Amman	6 / 21
Aqaba	12 / 27
Deserts	5 / 24
Jordan Valley	14 / 26

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 21, Aqaba 28. Humidity readings: Amman 24 per cent, Aqaba 29 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Tayseer Khadr	606857
Dr. George Sahouri	776751
Dr. Amin Abdul Jaber	614222
Dr. Saleh Musa	649028
Firas pharmacy	661912
Fertdows pharmacy	778336
Al Asema pharmacy	637055
Nairoukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660

IRBID:

Dr. 'Adel Hatamleh	(—)
Al Sharas' pharmacy	(985238)

ZARQA:

Dr. Misbah Al Hijjawi	(—)
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121,
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre	813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amm	644281/6
Ahliah Maternity, J. Amm	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Mathas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Meashar Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/37
Al-Afifi, Abdali	664164/6
Italian, Al-Mishajreen	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	775111/26
Army, Marka	891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital	(09)986732

IRBID:

Princess Basma Hospital	(02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital	(02)272275
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital	(02)247100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

04:45 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
09:00 ..... Damascus (RJ)
09:10 ..... Jeddah (RJ)
09:15 ..... Aqaba (RJ)
09:30 ..... Cairo (RJ)
09:36 ..... Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
09:55 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00 ..... Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (RJ)
10:45 ..... Montreal, New York (RJ)
17:00 ..... Baghdad (RJ)
17:55 ..... Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
19:40 ..... Tripoli (RJ)
19:55 ..... Belgrade, Bucharest (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:05 ..... Cairo (MS)
10:30 ..... Kuwait (KU)
13:15 ..... Moscow, Larnaca (SU)
17:05 ..... Rome (AZ)
17:30 ..... Dubai, Damascus (EK)
19:35 ..... Beirut (ME)
20:10 ..... Zurich, Larnaca (SR)
00:35 ..... London (RA)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:00 ..... Aqaba (RJ)
10:00 ..... Tripoli (RJ)
10:45 ..... Vienna, Chicago (RJ)
11:15 ..... Belgrade, Bucharest (RJ)
11:45 ..... Rome, Madrid (RJ)
12:00 ..... Paris, Brussels (RJ)
12:30 ..... Frankfurt, London (RJ)
13:00 ..... Baghdad (RJ)
15:00 ..... Kuwait, Dhahran (RJ)
20:20 ..... Cairo (RJ)
20:45 ..... Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:10 ..... Larnaca (RJ)
21:15 ..... Jeddah (RJ)
21:30 ..... Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

10:55 ..... Cairo (MS)
11:30 ..... Kuwait (KU)
15:00 ..... Larnaca, Moscow (SU)
18:05 ..... Dubai (AZ)
19:30 ..... Dubai (EK)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple	420 / 380
Banana	450 / 400
Banana (Muhammar)	400 / 350
Beans	300 / 250
Cabbage	170 / 140
Carrot	300 / 250
Cauliflower	160 / 100
Corn	250 / 200
Cucumbers (large)	120 / 60
Cucumbers (small)	260 / 180
Dates	600 / 450
Eggplant	150 / 110
Garlic	850 / 750
Grapefruit	230 / 180
Lemon	180 / 150
Marrow (large)	100 / 70
Marrow (small)	210 / 150
Olives	900 / 800
Onion (dry)	320 / 260
Onion (green)	180 / 120
Orange	450 / 400
Pepper (hot)	180 / 120
Pepper (sweet)	170 / 120
Potato	250 / 230
Raddish	150 / 100
Sage	480 / 400
Spinach	110 / 80
Tomatoes	280 / 220

Muta expansion to boost student capacity to 5,000

AMMAN (J.T.) — All buildings for the civilian wing at Muta University, near Karak will be completed by 1991 and enable the university to increase its student capacity to 5,000, according to University President Ali Mahafza.

"So far 60 per cent of the buildings have been completed and the students are still taking classes at the local community colleges until work on the premises is finished," Mahafza said in an interview with Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily.

The civilian wing of the university offers courses in mathematics, computer science, Arabic, English, law and management in addition to a limited number of courses in military training.

Muta University, initially established as a military university, provides training to qualified personnel chosen by the Armed Forces and the Public Security Department (PSD) in much needed fields, Mahafza said.

When it was opened in 1984, Muta University accepted 300 students in the military wing, and this year a total of 700 were admitted into the first-year course, he said.

He said that students in the military wing study mainly military-related topics but the door was also open for them to study mechanical and electrical engineering, computer science, physics and mathematics. All subjects are taught in English.

Mahafza said altogether Muta now offers training to 3,500 male and female students in both wings with 200 professors and teachers.

Graduates from the military wing are all absorbed by the Armed Forces or the PSD while the civilian wing graduates qualified people, who serve mostly in the southern regions of the country, according to Mahafza.

Mahafza blamed lack of proper planning for the present unemployment situation in the country. "Students should turn their attention to tourism, archaeology and other fields which the country is in need rather than studying medicine and engineering of which the country has a surplus," he said. Mahafza urged the departments concerned with planning the economy and education in Jordan to take into consideration the real needs of the society and future prospects.

Aid fund seeks to expand services

AMMAN (J.T.) — The National Aid Fund (NAF), which was established by Royal Decree in 1986, is trying to expand its services to include remote areas of Jordan and to find foster mothers for abandoned children, according to NAF Director-General Khalil Al Faouri.

He said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that NAF's teams had begun developing contacts with heads of local communities in remote regions around the country in order to identify the needy families which qualify for such assistance.

The work is being done by teams of social workers employed by NAF, who are also investigating cases of abandoned old people and children or those who lack proper care so that alternate accommodations can be found, according to Faouri. Families taking over the care of abandoned children or old people will be paid by NAF, he added.

At the same time NAF is going ahead with plans to amend existing legislation to cope with the economic and social changes in the country to enable a greater share of needy people to benefit from the fund's services, Faouri said.

He said this could be done by ensuring more funds and contributions for NAF, whose annual capital now stands at around JD 3 million. Coming mostly in contributions from the public and from the treasury.

Faouri said that nearly 10,000 needy families now benefit from the fund's services ranging from monthly allocations reaching up to JD 40 a month per family to rehabilitation projects and private businesses financed by the fund.

NAF, Faouri said, now pays nearly JD 200,000 to needy families on a monthly basis and had so far spent JD 250,000 on 300 projects benefiting the needy.

Other assistance includes providing wheelchairs for handicapped persons and tools for handicraft work for heads of families.

He said that vocational training was also being provided to enable the unemployed heads of needy families to earn a decent living.

Meeting reviews CEHA activities, programmes

AMMAN (J.T.) — A three-day meeting was opened at the Amman-based Regional Centre for Environmental Health Activities (CEHA), which is operated by the World Health Organisation (WHO). The meeting will review the centre's achievements in 1988-1989 and endorse plans for 1990 and 1991.

The meeting, the second of its kind by CEHA's technical advisory committee, is attended by four permanent CEHA countries, Jordan, Sudan, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, and one observer each from Iraq and Iran, according to a CEHA official. The meeting, chaired by the chief of environmental health for the East Mediterranean region, Dr. Islam Sheikh, is also being attended by the WHO's international consultants.

CEHA was established in 1985 by WHO to supervise environmental health activities in 23 countries of the Eastern Mediterranean region.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

INTERIOR MINISTERS MEETING: The Council of Arab Ministers of Interior, which groups 22 the Arab League member countries, will hold a meeting in Cairo Friday to review reports on establishing a pan-Arab security centre and a pan-Arab strategy for combating drugs and ways to improve prisons in the Arab World. According to Akram Nashaat, the council's secretary general, the council will also discuss extradition of criminals, as well as a United Nations-sponsored centre to combat drugs which is to be set up in Cyprus (Petra).

WORKSHOP ON ADOLESCENCE: An educational workshop on guidance of adolescents was held at the Educational Research and Development Centre at the University of Yarmouk. The workshop dealt with the adolescent stage's characteristics, problem (Petra).

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- An exhibition of paintings and etchings inspired by Arabic Islamic art at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- An art exhibition by artists from Jordan and other Arab countries at Al Wasiti Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- Book exhibition at the University of Yarmouk.
- A Gem Tree exhibition, by "Latifah Abu Hamdan" at the Exhibition Hall of the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILMS

- An Italian film entitled "Ultimo Minuto" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.
- A German film entitled "Minna von Barnhelm" at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.

Arab social development ministers to meet in Tunis

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will take part in a meeting by the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Development due to open in Tunis Dec. 15. The three-day meeting is expected to review 15 different subjects dealing with ways to bolster inter-Arab cooperation and coordination in social development.

The council will also look into means of supporting a special fund set up by the Arab League to boost social work in the Arab World during the coming year, matters related to Arab children, and cooperation with United Nations agencies concerned with improving children's conditions.

APU meeting

Tunis is currently hosting a meeting of the Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) designed to promote dialogue among national assemblies of the Arab World.

The two-day meeting, which opened Monday, will discuss public freedoms, human rights, the rights of the handicapped and other topics pertaining to social development.

An Arab League spokesman said that the participants would review working papers from their own countries dealing with these matters, including a paper by the Palestine National Conncil (PNC) on human rights in occupied Palestine.

The paper outlines Israel's repressive actions against the Arab population in violation of international laws and principles.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

King opens Parliament

(Continued from page 1)

financial auditing, he said.

A major part of the King's address was devoted to the economic situation in Jordan.

Noting that Jordan started the commercial exploitation of natural gas found at Al Risheh to run power-generators earlier this year, the King revealed that a "a new large well" was discovered in the area, "which raises our hopes to find large gas reserves in the eastern part of the Kingdom."

The authorities are now involved in programmes to exploit the new find and develop it by multiplying the output of gas-generated electricity as well as studying the feasibility of building a pipeline to channel gas from Al Risheh to Amman, the King said.

Reviewing the broad range of domestic issues such as water and electricity, agriculture, education, cultural life, health services, infrastructure, the King underlined the major strides that Jordan had made in the past years. He noted that water and electricity are now reaching 97 per cent of the population and said initial work on the Al Wahdah Dam on the Jordanian-Syrian border to exploit the water of Yarmouk River was completed. Jordan is now coordinating with Syria to follow up research and complete the project, "which has now reached the financing stage."

Following are other highlights of the King's speech:

The government remains committed to giving special attention to the Armed Forces and enabling it to defend the Kingdom from external threats.

The government will also spare no effort to support the various security agencies to ensure "the supremacy of law and order," and assure the citizens "of their safety and protection of their lives and property."

Jordan will continue to uphold its faith in the principles of human rights, public liberty and the protection of national security.

The liberalisation process that was launched earlier this year led to "free opinion and the free word, freedom of thought and expression, to prove publicly, and without fear or hesitation, their sound and presence in our society, press, media and in private and public meetings."

The total income in foreign currency generated from the phosphate, fertiliser and potash resources of Jordan is expected to be $600 million.

The government is working on laws governing the work of commercial agents and middlemen in the industrial sector as well as other aspects of industry and specifications and measurements. It will encourage the establishment of a society for consumer protection.

Reducing the deficit in the current account in the balance of payment is a priority for the government, which hopes to achieve the goal of a balanced account by 1993.

Jordan's exports have gone up since the beginning of this year and tourism is also witnessing a marked improvement. Controls on imports will continue and encouragement will be given to exporters.

The government has been successful in rescheduling a large part of its foreign debt repayments for the years 1989 and 1990 and will ensure that foreign debts do not reach levels which the economy cannot service.

The Central Bank of Jordan has been successful in its endeavours to replenish a large part of the Kingdom's foreign currency reserves. The King paid tribute to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Qatar and the Emirate of Dubai for their financial "assistance (which) contributed enormously to rectifying the situation and containing the damage."

An institutional framework will be worked out to address poverty and unemployment through setting up productive income-generating projects. A fund will be launched to counsel job seekers and provide them with easy-term loans to start feasible projects.

The administrative efficiency of the government and its various departments will be raised to be compatible with the requirements of development plans. A comprehensive project on administrative reform will be implemented over the next three years.

Arar elected speaker

(Continued from page 1)

activities to ensure proper execution of decisions and the protection of citizens' rights as stipulated by the Constitution."

Arar called upon the House members to work together "to build the spirit of compassion among ourselves to apply the articles of the Constitution and its spirit in all the different fields, including the establishment of political parties and freedom of expression."

Following the election of speaker, the House unanimously selected a 15-member panel to prepare the House's reply to the speech from the Throne. The panel, reflecting all the different political veins in Parliament, included Abdullah Nsour, Ali Al Faqir, Abdul Latif Arabiat, Mohammad Tarawneh, Qassim Obeidat, Jamal Haddad, Mohammad Abu Aleem, Saad Haiel Al Srour, Mansour Murad, Ahmad Oweidi Abbadi, Hammam Sai'd, Mohammad Abu Faris, Majid Khalifa, Abdul Munem Abu Zant and Yousef Al Athem.

Then the House elected two deputy speakers and two assistant speakers and concluded the day's business.

Faqir was elected as first deputy to Arar with 52 votes against Salameh Al Ghuwairi's 27 with one ballot declared null and void.

The second deputy speakership was won by Ziad Abu Mahfouz, who won 48 votes against 30 votes for Fawzi Shaker Tuaimah; two ballots wer blank.

Four deputies competed for the two assistant positions, which were won by Naif Abu Tayeh, 58 votes; Abdul Salam Freihat, 56 votes, while Ibrahim Al Ghababsheh got 25 votes and Awni Al Basheer got only 20 votes.

Senate deputy speakers

(Continued from page 1)

the office of the prime minister, other than the current prime minister Sharif Zeid. They are Bahjat Talhouni, who also served as a former senator, Ahmad Lawi, who was also a previous senator and speaker of the Upper House, and Ahmad Obeidat, who previously held the position of chief of the General Intelligence Department.

First woman senator

For the first time in Jordan's history a woman, Laila Sharaf, was appointed as a legislator. Sharaf previously held the position of minister of information.

Twelve of the appointed senators served as former ministers, four have served as ambassadors, four former chiefs of the General Intelligence Department, three former senators and one deputy, two former commander-in-chiefs of the Armed Forces as well as a former governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, an advisor to His Majesty the King, and an industrialist, a businessman, a head of the court of appeals, a chief of the Civil Defence Department, a head of the National Medical Institution, a union leader, a human rights campaigner, a tribal chief, a president of a chamber of commerce and several intellectuals.

His Majesty King Hussein Monday meets members of Parliament (Petra photo)

Rumblings in the aisles of Parliament

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Tribal leaders, bearded Muslim men, liberal thinkers, students, army, police, diplomats and the press converged Monday on the domed Parliament building for the convening of Jordan's eleventh Parliament after a 15-month hiatus.

The over-crowded assembly was buzzing with excitement waiting to hear His Majesty King Hussein's speech on the general policies of the country. But that excitement was intermingled with exasperation, especially for those who could not find anywhere to sit. A diplomat said, "it is obvious that whoever passed out the invitations overlooked the seating capacity of the Parliament House."

However, Secretary-General of the Parliament Hani Khair explained that everyone had a seat and the appropriate number of invitations were issued but "the fact that seating was done during a short-period of time contributed to this."

"The dignitaries should have entered first and then the seating should have been done slowly," Khair told the Jordan Times. He said that there were approximately 500 seats set up on the floor to accommodate the extra guests but they were not filled. "This has never happened before," he added.

Informed sources said at least 3,000 invitation cards were distributed. The regular seating capacity of the chamber is about 1,000 and an additional 1,000 chairs were lined up behind the regular rows. But at least 400 people had to contend with standing space.

As the time neared to when the King was to deliver his traditional speech from the Throne, many people were still searching for somewhere to sit or even stand. One frustrated citizen saw one empty seat near the front of the balcony section and almost jumped on it. As he was about to get comfortable, a Parliament official told him the seat was reserved, he refused to budge. The official screamed: "I will call the police and have you removed." Needles to say the man moved.

Even well-known personalities and diplomats had difficulties finding their seats although sections were reserved for special groups such as diplomats and the press.

At approximately 10:10, the thunder of the 21-gun salute was heard in the Parliament building over the multitude of voices, a signal to the anxious crowd that the King had arrived.

It was a disappointment for many of those who would have liked to watch the ceremonial greeting that the King was given upon his arrival; anyone who dared to leave his/her seat to go ontside the chamber risked losing the seat, not to mention the hazardous task of manoeuvring through the crowds that thronged the aisles and corridors.

According to witnesses, the King was greeted with the 21-gun salute and a guard of honour with the accompaniment of music played by the armed forces band. Then, he proceeded to the protocol room awaiting word from the secretary-general of Parliament that the chamber was ready for the King to deliver his speech.

At 10:15 the King walked into the assembly hall in full ceremonial uniform to loud applause and cheer. He bowed before the audience and took his place at the podium. In the next 50 minutes, he read out the prepared 39-page Arabic-language speech (29 pages in English) interrupted thrice by loud applause and twice by two citizens cheering him and wishing him long life.

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Confident of a brighter future

HIS MAJESTY'S speech from the throne to the two Houses of the Parliament Monday was clearly inspired by the Kingdom's deep pride in its heritage and motivated by its unshaken confidence in its future. For the friends of Jordan the speech came as an added confidence building bloc that promises expanded strength and prosperity to the country and a renewed vigour to cope with the ever increasing challenges and dangers that lie ahead. For the enemies of the country, the speech came as a big disappointment for they were wagering all along on the collapse of the Kingdom under the strain of a multitude of economic and political threats orchestrated by them. In fact the biggest setback to all parties which placed their bet on a weakening Jordan was the voluntary choice of the road of democracy by Jordan to deal with the dangers and challenges placed at the footsteps of the country. Accordingly the strongest irrefutable evidence that Jordan is even more robust than ever was its free and deliberate choice to expand the process of democratisation. Only weak countries and nations that lack self-confidence would shun democratisation. Seen in this light, His Majesty King Hussein's speech to the nation is a living vindication of Jordan's confidence in its future and pride of its past.

Equally relevant is His Majesty's assurances that the on-going process of expanded democratisation will not stop where it has honourably reached in the 1989 parliamentary elections but rather it will be further consolidated and bolstered by the establishment of political parties on the foundation of the envisaged national pact. Likewise Jordan's graduation from its economic and fiscal ills with flying colours as substantiated by the King's speech, will also fortify the economy of the country. Whether it is the discovery of natural gas in commercial quantities, as King Hussein has informed the people of Jordan, or the vast improvement in the Jordan's balance of payment or the strengthening of exchange rate of Jordan's currency, Jordan is once again on its feet against formidable odds some of which at least were artificially induced by those who conspired to undermine the Kingdom's stability and well-being.

These were some of the central points in His Majesty King Hussein's speech from the throne Monday on the occasion of the opening of the first session of the Eleventh Parliament. As a matter of fact Jordanians of all walks of life have always had tremendous confidence in the ability of their country to surmount the conspiracies and hardships that were put in its path. Still, King Hussein's words to the country came as an added proof that the future of the Kingdom is indeed strong and bright.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

All three Jordanian Arabic dailies on Monday discussed the opening of Parliament by His Majesty King Hussein, outlining the heavy responsibility awaiting the deputies in the coming stage. **Al Ra'i** Arabic daily said that King Hussein will usher in the coming democratic stage in Jordan's life with a speech from the throne in which he will provide the guidelines for the government and the representatives of the Jordanian people. The opening of Parliament, following the Nov. 8 elections, is a major event in the life of Jordan after a break of 22 years of parliamentary rule as the deputies confront a formidable task represented in the economic problems and the need for reform, said the paper. It noted that every citizen now realises the great challenges facing his country and the need for serious work on the part of the executive as well as the legislative authorities in dealing with the situation. Such question as unemployment, the education process, excessive consumption and other matters related to the economy are on the mind of all people all the time and awaiting solutions from the deputies in Parliament. Everybody realises that there should be a look towards the future and there should be a strong national unity and serious endeavours if any of the aspirations are to be met, continued Al Ra'i. Therefore it said, cooperation is required on the part of all those in responsible positions and the citizens at large; and public awareness is needed in the long march towards maintainig the momentum of development.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Monday points to the Israeli adamant position with regard to the Palestine problem and questions the wisdom on the part of the Arab League for postponing a council meeting to review the situation in the Middle East. **Abdul Rahim Omar** says that Shamir has visited the United States, France and Italy to peddle his ideas about elections and Israel's stance, and was rebuffed in most of his mission due to the big contrast in the views of the American, French and Italian governments on the one hand and the Israli government on the other. The writer notes that the Arab League meeting was necessary, but unfortunately has been put off at the request of only two foreign ministers. The meeting was needed to review the peace prospects following Israel's rejection of PLO's views and following the new situation resulting from Shamir's tour. What the Arab League is concerned about Shamir's outright rejection of any withdrawal from the occupied Arab lands, which in his words constitute a suicide for Israel, says the writer. The PLO had wanted the meeting to focus attention on this situation and to rally the Arab countries for a meaningful action to deal with Israel's adamant position, Omar notes. He says that the Arab League ought to embark on serious studies of the situation with particular attention to Israel's refusal to swap land for peace.

Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily hailed the opening of Parliament in Jordan as signalling a new era in the country's march towards enhancing the pillars of democracy and opening the way for more freedoms for the Jordanian people. The speech from the throne is expected to remind the people of Jordan of various achievements accomplished by the Kingdom over the past years and to remind the deputies of their duty to maintain the momentum of development and lead the country to further progress, said the paper.

Avoid a void at Europe's heart

By Pierre Lellouche

ONCE the lights of the Berlin festival are turned off, the joy and emotion of the German family reunion will soon give way to worry about the future. Not only the Germans, but Europe as a whole as well as the two superpowers, will have to decide what kind of Europe will be rebuilt on the rubble of the wall.

The Iron Curtain and the forced partition of the continent had put an end — temporarily — to Europe's fundamental geopolitical question of the past three centuries, namely how to cope with the weight of German powers at the centre of th continent. So while everyone in Western Europe and the United States offered official support for the goal of "reunification" of our German brothers, everyone was also quite content with a status quo that successfully assured peace and stability in the continent.

Just as most Asian countries still carry a deep scar left by Japanese occupation and worry about the rebirth of Japanese military power, so the collective memory of most Europeans is still extremely sensitive to the idea of a large German state which neither France, Britain or Russia could counterbalance any more successfully in the future than they did in the past. The respected German president, Richard von Weizsaecker, understood it well when he wrote a few years ago that "overcoming partition does not mean unification... For the former we will find understanding almost everywhere and for the latter almost nowhere. Most Europeans dislike the wall about as much as they do the idea of a large German state in the centre of Europe."

The right of self-determination

In part to defuse these fears, most political leaders in Bonn insist that *state* reunification, although supported by 80 per cent of the West Germans, is not the issue, nor is it the only scenario for the future. What is at stake, they insist, is the right of self-determination of the East German people and the reunification of the *nation* rather than the state. To a certain extent, of course, this is true; the popular movement which toppled the East German regime and led to the collapse of the wall was at no time a nationalistic one; it did not express an urge to join West Germany, but the irrepressible claim to basic rights such as the right to elect one's representatives, to speak out, to travel. Moreover, it is by no means clear that East Germans would continue to flee *en masse* into West Germany if the German Democratic Republic were to be truly reformed with a freely elected government and multiparty system. And if one is to believe recent polls, a majority of East Germans prefers two German states to a reunified one.

So why worry, then? If indeed the GDR is going to reform itself, as now seems to be the case under the new Krenz-Modrow government, then one would have the best possible outcome for everybody: democracy in both German states, an open border between them, but still two separate states which would reassure Germany's neighbours against the fears of a "Fourth Reich." The Europeans would continue to have the West Germans play a constructive role in the Community and each of the superpowers would continue to rely on "its" Germany as the cornerstone of the two alliance systems: NATO and the Warsaw Pact.

This clearly is the preferred scenario of Gorbachev, Bush, Delors, Mitterrand and probably most, if not all, of the other European leaders. But is it really what the Germans want for themselves? And how real is the distinction between the reunification of the *state* and the reunification of the *nation*?

Even with two formally separate governments, two Germanys that are democratic and capitalistic will, de facto, inevitably become one. The East German province will become another Bavaria, with regional differences but an integral part of a German entity. So whatever its legal format, we are likely to have at the centre of Europe a tremendously powerful German federation or confederation comprising 80 million (a quarter of all the people in all Western Europe), with a GNP nearly equal to that of France and Britain combined and with the most powerful army on the continent except for the USSR).

Eradicating demons

How tomorrow's Germans will use their power is, of course, the big question. Will they, in Chancellor Kohl's words, "assume or refuse their European responsibility?" It is by no means clear, for instance, that the EEC as we currently know it will survive in its present form. The Community's founding fathers conceived the EEC as a means to anchor the newly created FRG in the West and eradicate the demons of German nationalism by offering the new generation of Germans a "European identity" instead. This vision was bound to fail, if only because nations remain nations especially when they are divided. So today the Community will have to face for the first time the existential question of its own future: can it remain only a club of West European democracies, leaving half of Germany and half of Europe outside, or must it evolve into a wider but necessarily looser grouping that would comprise nations from both the West and East? And if it chooses the latter course, will it be dominated by German economic and monetary power — a new version of the German Empire, so to speak?

The same question goes for the future of the two alliance systems. NATO and the Warsaw Pact could survive as long as they were anchored by two separate German states, each willing to have large foreign armies and large numbers of nuclear weapons stationed on their soil. But when most of those troops and weapons are gone as a result of disarmament, aren't the two alliances doomed?

And if so, what are we going to have at the centre of Europe? Instead of the unpleasant but stable situation of two military alliances, we may face a huge strategic void in which Europe's old problems of borders and ethnic minorities will rise again to threaten peace from the Oder-Neisse to Moldavia to the Baltic States. The task we now have to face — Germans, other Europeans, Americans and Soviets — is to avoid trading the Yalta system of 1945 for the Balkan problems of 1914. This will require vision and wisdom on the part of everyone — Newsweek.

NATO prepares to bid cold war farewell

By Nicholas Doughty
Reuter

BRUSSELS — Shaken by a series of political earthquakes in Eastern Europe, NATO is having to look again at military strategies and planning that have formed the bedrock of Western defence for decades.

Publicly, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) still insists that its 16 members must keep up their guard in a time of instability and not cut back on defence.

But prospects for more arms control, less money for national defenee budgets and rapid changes beyond what was once the iron curtain are making officials and diplomats at the alliance's Brussels headquarters wonder how long this view can last.

"Ways of thinking and planning that we took for granted for years will have to be looked at again," said one senior NATO official, who asked not to be identified.

"It will be a long-term process, covering everything from the role of nuclear weapons to how we develop and procure weapons and how we use them on the battlefield," he said.

Change in Eastern Europe has robbed NATO of the unpleasant certainties of the cold war. While no one here is suggesting that every sword should be beaten into a ploughshare, cracks are beginning to appear in long-standing military philosophy.

Those cracks are likely to be a major topic for a series of top-level NATO discussions starting on Nov. 28-29 with a defence ministers' meeting in Brussels.

Take the keystone of NATO's European defence — that a mix of conventional and nuclear forces should be maintained close to the Warsaw Pact's borders to deter aggression.

After a fierce internal debate, the alliance has agreed to decide by 1992 whether to replace the ageing Lance short-range nuclear missile, based largely in frontline West Germany. Bonn has opposed deployment in the face of London and Washington.

But the promise of reform in East Germany, the country on which such missiles would probably fall, has made it unlikely that such a weapon would ever be deployed.

"The way it looks now, the follow-on to Lance missile cannot be deployed in Europe," said one senior NATO official with a knowledge of nuclear affairs.

Unfortunately for NATO military planners, both the conventional force cuts envisaged under East-West negotiations in Vienna and the prospect of less money for the tools of war are going to cause major headaches.

What is more, U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said last week that the military threat from the Warsaw Pact was at the lowest level since the end of World War II and that U.S. arms spending would be trimmed until at least 1995.

Since the United States, with forces of around 300,000 in Europe, is the biggest single contributor to the alliance, other countries are likely to follow Washington's lead.

Some European governments have already signalled that it will be difficult to maintain defence spending levels when their people are carried on a tide of euphoria about Eastern Europe.

"The outcome of CFE (conventional forces in Europe talks), and whatever further cuts might follow on, will mean changes in defence planning," said one official.

"Lower levels of forces means that we have to be more mobile and more efficient to cover the same ground."

Another question is how the cuts can be achieved so that only older equipment is destroyed, to preserve efficiency. Alliance members may have to share out their best stuff.

And how is defence to be kept up with less money?

"NATO will simply have to do what it has talked about doing for years — it will have to harmonise its forces, standardise more equipment and generally get much more for much less," the official said.

While the Warsaw Pact has enjoyed the military advantages of central planning and standard production lines. NATO has struggled — and largely failed — to overcome touchy questions of national interest among its members.

This means that choosing everything from a radar system to a fighter becomes a diplomatic nightmare. NATO members are keen to protect their own arms industries that employ thousands of people. The result is often wasted money and duplicated effort.

NATO has tried to set up joint projects to develop, among other things, a frigate, a new fighter and missile systems. But lack of funding from participants and squabbling about who designs and makes which parts have caused immense problems.

"There's not a major project that isn't in trouble," said one official with detailed knowledge of the plans.

One idea being informally floated at the moment is that the alliance could set up more permanent multi-national units, based on a greater standardisation of equipment and under alliance rather than national control.

With the pace of political change in Europe so rapid, defence planning will also have to be more flexible and responsive to changing needs, officials say.

No one is rash enough to try to predict how NATO's forces and strategy will look in 10 years.

"There aren't going to be any sudden shifts in alliance strategy. We don't work like that," said one diplomat. "But we're going to have to start laying the groundwork for some of these changes, and pretty soon."

After and before West Bank elections

By Joel Greenberg

In the following article, reprinted from the Israeli newspaper, The Jerusalem Post, the writer paints a post-election scenario in the West Bank (in italics), then goes on to analyse the political landscape in the occupied territories that would lead to such a scenario.

IT WAS A troubling victory for supporters of the pragmatic mainstream in the PLO. Although they had won a solid majority in the West Bank elections, significant gains by the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement cast an unsettling shadow over their celebrations.

Contrary to many predictions, Hamas won about 25 per cent of the West Bank vote, and made even larger gains in the Gaza Strip. A combined list of Fatah and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) garnered about 65 per cent of the West Bank vote. The Palestinian left, including the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Communist Party, won about 10 per cent.

Faisal Husseini, who headed the combined Fatah/DFLP list, emerged strengthened, his leadership legitimised by popular support. Immediately after the results were announced, he began consultations with activists of the PFLP, the Communist Party and Hamas to put together a broad coalition whose members would be part of a self-governing Palestinian administration in the territories.

The contacts, however, proved difficult, and personal and political differences hampered the formation of the coalition.

The elections had been marred by violent confrontations between supporters of competing factions, and the tough coalition talks involving the first-ever distribution of posts, real power and responsibility threatend to collapse under the weight of personal and ideological feuds. Factions waged a graffiti war, and occasional street-fights erupted between supporters of rival groups.

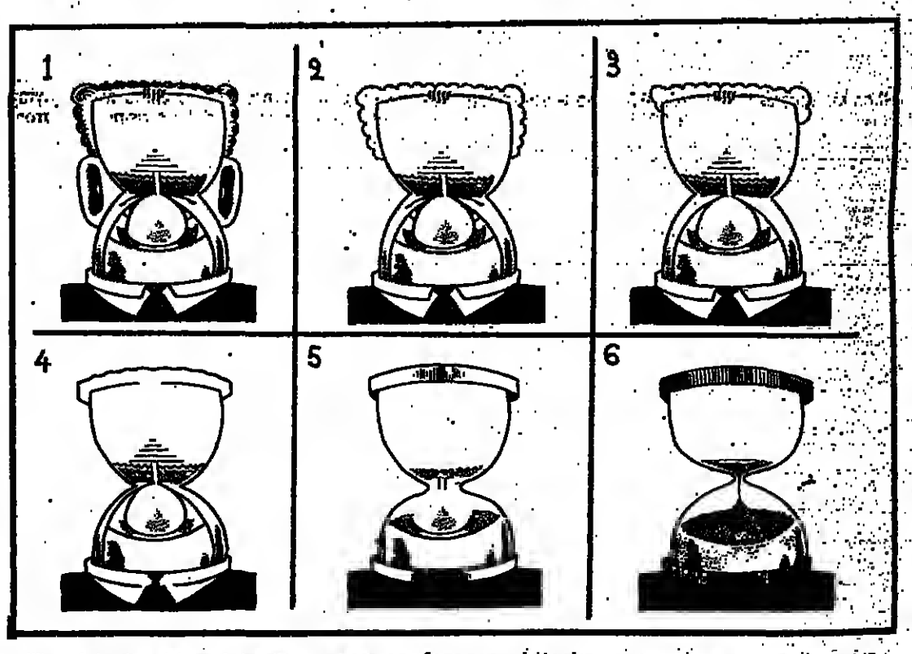
At stake here was no less than the first tangible gains of the intifada: concrete administrative control over funds and resources, over regional development, and health, education and social welfare policies. The first-ever Palestinian administration was about to be established, the embryo of a possible future state, and everyone wanted a chunk of power and influence.

Even within his own mainstream group, Husseini was threatened by a mutiny by prominent PLO-backers in Nablus and the northern West Bank, who balked at the dominant leadership role he had assumed with other East Jerusalem figures. Leaflets criticising the "corruption" of the Jerusalem-based mainstream PLO leadership, an occasional phenomenon before the elections, were issued with increasing frequency, especially in Nablus.

A HARBINGER, perhaps, of this post-election scenario was a little-noticed but significant clash reported this month at the West Bank village of Safa, in the Ramallah area. According to accounts from the village, supporters of Fatah and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine fought in a knife-battle, leaving a Fatah activist dead, and two of his opponents wounded.

The killing of 24-year-old Mohammad Falaneh was the first slaying reported during the intifada in a politically-motivated clash between rival Palestinian factions. Palestinian spokesmen later tried to depict the battle as a family feud sparked by a car accident, and noted that the combatants were members of rival families. But the intervention of top community leaders to defuse tensions indicated that this was more than just a blood-feud.

Arab Studies Society head Faisal Husseini, identified with Fatah, and Ramallah priest Odeh Rantisi, identified with the Palestinian left, arrived at Falaneh's funeral to help calm tempers. Al Bireh lawyer Jamil Tarifi was also reported to have been involved in mediation efforts.



Husseini, Rantisi and Tarifi acted on behalf of a newly formed "reconciliation committee" of leading public figures, established to mediate clashes between rival factions which have erupted in several locations in recent weeks.

The seriousness with which the local Palestinian leadership takes this violence was evident in the latest leaflet of the Unified National Leadership, which called for a halt to "partisan, religious and family feuds."

The latest internecine violence, not directed this time at alleged "collaborators," but pitting rival political factions against each other, may be part of the reason why "elections" is not a subject that Palestinian opinion-makers in the West Bank warm to.

An open, free-wheeling campaign, in which rival PLO and *Islamic fundamentalist factions* compete in the streets for control of Palestinian hearts and minds, could be an ideal breeding-ground for even more political violence. The balloting could produce victories for the fundamentalists, undermining the PLO's claim to exclusive representation of the Palestinians. With a wide pro-PLO consensus already achieved, why open a Pandora's box that could only aggravate internal discord?

The emergence of a locally elected negotiating team could create another major problem glossed over today by prominent figures in the territories. Election of a local Palestinian leadership could give unprecedented legitimacy to the political agenda of residents of the West Bank and Gaza Strip: moving speedily to end the occupation of the territories, perhaps through a compromise deal with Israel.

Such a compromise *might* be unacceptable to PLO militants and Palestinians in the diaspora *for whom regaining the territories* is not enough, since they have no special attachment to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, but to their homes in pre-1948 Palestine. A rift could open between the Palestinian leadership in the territories pushing for a settlement to remove the excruciating burden of occupation, and a Palestinian leadership abroad hamstrung by its militants and diaspora constituency who still dream of total liberation of their land.

Faced with all these dangers, prominent Palestinians in the territories prefer to talk now of subsuming elections in a "political process" that addresses a wider range of issues, including Israeli withdrawal, an international peaee conferenee, interim arrangements for Palestinian self-government — all leading to independence.

The current focus of this "political process" is the proposed Israeli-Palestinian dialogue. The dialogue itself, and who will participate in it, has become the centre of attention, obscuring the original intent of using the talks to promote an election process in the territories.

The more Palestinians look at the current diplomatic efforts, the more some ask the following questions: With all the energy concentrated now on choosing acceptable Palestinian negotiators, who needs elections? Once agreed representatives are found to participate in talks, why risk a divisive political contest in the territories? Let the chosen *negotiators — approved by the* PLO and with wide popular consensus — be the Palestinians' representatives in the coming diplomatic discussions.

Seen from this Palestinian perspective, the government's proposal to elect negotiators from the territories is emptied of meaning. The negotiators will be agreed upon through complex, American-mediated diplomacy, and any future elections will only be part of a process of Israeli withdrawal and establishment of PLO-sanctioned self-government in the territories.

Instead of being a vehicle for replacing the PLO with alternative Palestinian representatives (as intended by the government), elections will become part of a process in which the PLO is a participant, providing the organisation with local representatives legitimised by popular vote.

Birzeit University professor *Sari Nusseibeh*, a *leading Palestinian thinker*, returned recently from a trip to the U.S. in which he outlined a scheme for building grass-roots Palestinian self-government in the territories. The proposal, aired at a Washington conference of Arab-American university graduates, talks about unilateral action under the umbrella of a Palestinian provisional government abroad, but does not mention elections...

Though Nusseibeh maintains that elections are possible as part of the diplomatic process, to be pursued in tandem with state-building on the ground, balloting is not the top item on his agenda.

What he proposes is that the Palestinians start building their own "National Anthority" through declaration of a provisional government, whose ministers would be drawn from the PLO executive committee but whose bureaucracy would be manned and directed by thousands of Palestinians in the territories. The idea is "unilateral autonomy" in reverse: instead of Israel installing a Palestinian governing administration, the Palestinians will set one up by themselves.

The aim, Nusseibeh says, is to provide an over-arching structure which will give coherence and direction to the myriad committees and community institutions that have come to control various aspects of Palestinian life during the intifada. Palestinians working in education, health and social services will be declared employees of the Palestinian government, and prominent political figures in the *territories can be* appointed head of government departments.

Israeli attempts to arrest leaders of the new Palestinian administration will either be overcome by the appointment of substitute leaders, or thwarted by the sheer numbers of Palestinians employed in this newly declared Palestinian bureaucracy. Though actual operation of such an administration will be repeatedly blocked by Israel, moves to set it up will be another step forward in state-building and forming an independent infrastructure, which should be the proper focus of the uprising, in Nusseibeh's view.

Nusseibeh doesn't rule out elections, but for him, and other Palestinian leaders, they are a secondary matter, contingent on the resolution of more fundamental issues, such as the PLO role in negotiating a settlement, and the shape such a settlement should take.

The scarf affair

By Liliane Landor

LEILA AND FATIMA Achaboun and Samira Saidani are the most talked-about school-girls in France. For two months they have been relegated to their school's library, forbidden to attend classes or take part in any school activity. Since they turned up on the first day of term wearing headscarves, their teachers, supported by the headmaster, have refused to teach them unless the girls remove the offending headgear.

The Gabriel-Havez school in Creil where they live stands in the heart of the town's industrial estate. It's a sad grey prefab, put up some 20 years go as a temporary measure and still servicing the needs of this economically depressed small town some 62km north of Paris. The 825 youngsters who attend the school are mainly children of immigrants of over 25 different nationalities. Today the school finds itself in the midst of a public debate which is shaking the foundations of French politics — some say ethics — has split Mitterrand's Socialist Party down the middle and has put the questions of immigration and integration back on the agenda with a vengeance.

Mr. Cheniere, the school's headmaster, is a practising Catholic of Martinican origin, a freemason whose authoritarian methods do not endear him to his students. He is adamant that any open manifestation of religious or cultural identity at school goes against the principles of secular state education. To his credit, Cheniere did attempt a conciliatory gesture when he suggested that the three adolescents could wear their scarves at school outside class hours.

The girls insist that it is their fundamental right to wear their scarves at all times, just as some of their fellow students wear skullcaps or the cross. They say they do not understand why their headmaster is so intent on persecuting them when 20 Jewish students do not attend school on Saturdays, a normal part of the school week in France. Confronted with this, Cheniere retorts that there are some differences that are more salient than others. Let them wear their scarves at home, he adds; this school is French and secular.

"The "Affair of the Scarf", as it has become known, has taken the French media by storm. In the past month, not a day has gone by without national newspapers devoting reams of print to the issue, asking in big headlines, as Le Point put it, "Should we let Islam colonise our schools?"

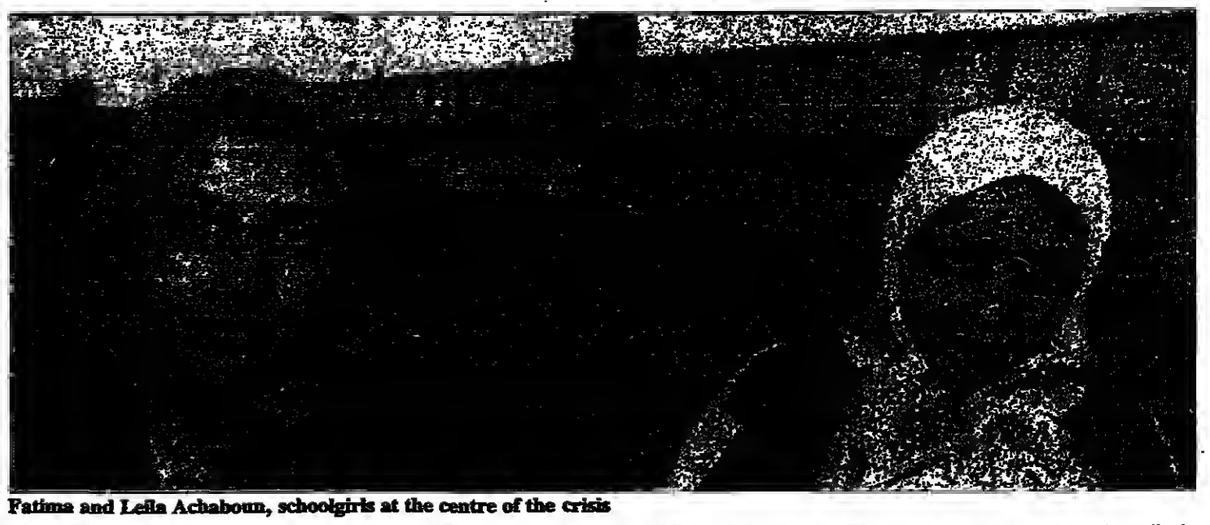
The left-leaning weekly Le Nouvel Observateur has invited anthropologists, philosophers of many persuasions, feminists (mostly French) and Muslim intellectuals (men) to pronounce their verdicts. Opinion polls have been taken by Le Figaro and L'Evenement du Jeudi, with wildly differing results, readers have been encouraged to write and religious leaders of all shades have been called upon to give the benefit of their wisdom. Today in France, the Koran is the flavour of the day as "specialists" dissect its verses and explain the mysteries of Islam to the lay masses.

Yet it remains that, for the first time in 15 years and since the controversy over abortion, opinions are divided so haphazardly that traditional political alliances have ceased to operate. No sooner had the Minister of Education, Lionel Jospin, stated that the scarves could not be a motive for excluding the girls from school than the teachers' union, traditionally close to the Socialist Party, called him a traitor and 50 of his deputies signed a petition publicly disaffiliating themselves from his line and asking for his resignation. They found themselves rubbing shoulders with right-wing MPs, the same who in 1984 organised a million-strong demonstration in support of private schools and for the right of the parents to choose, and who today declare themselves staunch supporters of the state secular education system.

Mme Mitterrand's support of the girls, in the name of respect of religious cultures within the bounds of secularity, brought an angry reaction from French feminists. Along with four other intellectuals, including Regis Debray, feminist writer Elisabeth Badinter signed an open letter to Mr. Jospin, saying that the scarf is a symbol of Muslim women's oppression and warning him not to capitulate. A compromise on this issue, they wrote, would damage all that the French Republic has stood for since the Revolution. Remarkably, the voice of those primarily concerned by the issue, namely Arab women, has been totally missing.

Les Nanas Beurs, an organisation of women of North African descent, believe that the scarf battle has to be fought. "As Arab feminists of Muslim culture, we believe that fundamentalism in all its forms is dangerous and that the scarf is oppressive," said spokeswoman Souad Benani. "But it should not be used as a pretext to exclude 12-or 13-year-old girls from school when it is precisely these secular schools that should offer them the opportunity to learn, grow and make their own choices."

For her organisation, as well as for SOS Racisme, the mass movement of young French of immigrant descent, this debate hides another agenda. What is really being debated, according to



Fatima and Leila Achaboun, schoolgirls at the centre of the crisis

Hayat Boudjema, vice-president of SOS Racisme, is immigration and the integration of migrants and their children in French society. Already the opposition has united to set up a working group on immigration, with a view to formulating a new bill. Boudjema believes that the opposition parties are settling a score with the Socialist government and using the schoolgirls as a scapegoat.

There's more and more talk about the inability or unwillingness of the North Africans to adapt and conform. "This controversy has been tainted by racism parading as a concern for the adolescents' welfare," says Boudjema. "The scarves are being used to fan the age-old fear of the Arab which has been dormant — simmering — since the Algerian war."

For her the real issue is the second generation's right to education, but not any old education. "We are still being taught about 'our ancestors, the Gauls'. The history of our countries of origin in Africa, Asia or the Arab world has remained totally obliterated."

Boudjema, who is of Algerian descent, says she was totally shocked when she first heard of the Affair of the Scarf. "When women in North Africa and the Arab world are struggling so hard for equality and respect, it is ironic that here in France a fundamentalist minority is pushing them to conform to tradition. But we can't sacrifice these girls on the altar of a sacrosanct secularity which, in my view, needs to be urgently redefined and adapted to a multiracial society."

As the debate goes on and the political parties bid for votes and support, Leila, Fatima and Samira are still confined to the library. In the meantime, in the Paris suburb of Montfermeil, the mayor refused to register children of immigrant descent in his town's primary school, declaring that he'd filled his quota of foreign children. Similarly, in the small town of Beaucaire in the South, a like-minded mayor refused to admit 40 new children of North African origin. When forced by the Inspectorate of Education to retract his decision, the good mayor refused them access to the school canteen, controlled by the municipal services. "As far as I'm concerned," he said, "they don't exist" — *Guardian Women*

Scientists combed the cosmos, but terra remained troubled in 1989

By Thomas Ginsberg
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Billions of dollars and years of research paid off in 1989 with proof of the universe's basic makeup and important discoveries in space, but some stubborn earthly problems will persist into the 1990s.

AIDS research last year succeeded mainly in illuminating some mysterious aspects of the disease, while ecologists agreed that some man-made environmental changes are inevitable in the next century.

Perhaps the most compelling event this year took place 4.5 billion kilometres from earth. After a 12-year journey, the $865-million Voyager 2 space probe sent home its electronic impressions of neptune and its moons, in a finale to its journey around the solar system. It discovered three previously unknown rings and six moons around neptune, and photographed eruptions on Neptune's biggest moon, Triton.

With that mission complete, Voyager 2 joined its twin, Voyager 1, to search for the edge of the solar system. After their plutonium generators fail in about 25 years, each will drift among the stars, possibly for millions of years, carrying a record of sounds and sights from earth.

Also in 1989, the U.S. space shuttle Atlantis launched the Magellan probe to Venus and the Galileo probe to Jupiter. The Soviet Union sent cosmonauts to re-occupy its Mir space station after a four-month break and reaped new data about Mars before its Phobos II probe was lost. The European space agency put up a star-tracking satellite around earth and the United States sent up an orbiter to study the universe's evolution.

Astronomers in the United States also announced discovery of the oldest and farthest object never found in the universe: a star-like body called a quasar about 14 billion years old and about 131 trillion billion kilometres from Earth. Scientists say its existence will force them to recalculate some assumptions about the universe, thought to have formed 10 billion to 20 billion years ago in a gigantic explosion called the "big bang"

Back on earth, competing teams of scientists reached a nearly simultaneous conclusion about the fundamental makeup of matter that could help them understand the "big bang," how stars are powered and even whether the universe could someday collapse on itself.

Using a giant atom smasher in the U.S. state of California and another built along the French-Swiss border, researchers concluded that particles of matter can be grouped into three fundamental types, or "families." These families determine how matter is formed.

The conclusion was possible only after completion of the two costly particle accelerators, in which tiny particles are hurled into each other to create collisions that produce Z particles. The super-heavy Z particles decay instantly into the fundamental particles, but until 1989 scientists could not produce enough repetitious collisions to study the decaying Z particles.

Decay might be the most appropriate word for the environment last year, with many ecologists agreeing that some epochal climatic shifts are inevitable. The result was that more researchers last year began emphasising ways to adapt to the changes.

Researchers say huge amounts of pollutants accumulating in the atmosphere appear to be acting like the glass roof of a greenhouse — letting in warming sunlight but preventing heat from escaping.

Although the "greenhouse effect" isn't proven, most scientists agree the planet will warm an average of 1.6 to 4.4 degrees celsius in the 21st century.

The most certain effect will be higher sea levels — because of melting ice and the greater volume of warmer water — that would put many low-lying coastal areas under water.

Engineers are designing dikes, seawalls and flood gates of all types. Researchers are studying ways to deflect rising tides from shipping channels, fish hatcheries and drinking water supplies. Botanists are experimenting with crops that could survive in higher temperatures.

AIDS continued to spread 1989, with officials estimating 6 million people worldwide will be ill and 18 million infected by the end of the 1990s.

Researchers in 1989 said they have lengthened the lifespan of a person with AIDS and have deciphered some fundamental aspects of the disease. But some drugs once thought to be promising flopped last year. Tests ruled out safe use of Dextran Sulfate and AL-721, a drug many AIDS patients had pushed for.

One AIDS study last year brought bad but needed news: an immune system battling the AIDS virus actually may hasten its own death by disabling some of its own white blood cells, the body's natural disease fighters. The finding suggested that some types of vaccine actually could help the disease develop.

In another field, a team of Paleontologists last year came up with a description of the herrerasaurus, thought to be oldest dinosaur. Scientists concluded the "dinosaur-type thing" stood about 2 metres, weighed about 136 kilogrammes and roamed the Earth some 230 million years ago.

In Nobel Prize work, Thomas Cech and Sidney Altman, both Americans, won the Chemisty prize for discoveries about the genetic material RNA. American physicist Norman F. Ramsey was given half the physics prize for inventing a method of measuring time based on atomic energy. American Hans G. Dehmelt, a native of Germany, and Wolfgang Paul, of West Germany, shared half of the physics prize for developing precise ways of trapping and studying particles.

One compelling science claim of 1989 ended up doing little more than expose modern science's egos and high stakes.

Fusion, an atomic reaction that produces much more energy than it consumes, has been pursued for years as the panacea for the world's energy needs. So it was no surprise that scientists Stanly Pons and Martin Fleischmann became sensations overnight when they claimed in March to have achieved a controlled form of fusion in a glass beaker in their Utah laboratory.

But the American and British researchers quickly became pariahs among their colleagues when no other scientists was able to recreate their findings. Competing fusion researchers criticised Pons and Fleischmann, who in turn accused detractors of jealousy and using shoddy scientific methods, the same charges they themselves faced.

In October, researchers hoping to put the issue to rest confirmed only that some heat was generated in the experiment, though most likely it was from fusion.

"It is normal when you have a wonderful dream to accept the positive and suppress the negative," one said. "Everyone does it. Scientists are human, too."

UAE runs $500m deficit this year

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (Agencies) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) in 1989 ran up the same deficit of $500 million that it sustained in the preceding year, UAE officials announced Monday.

The much delayed 1989 budget was approved by the cabinet Monday and has still to be ratified by the rulers of the seven emirates federated in the UAE, said the officials.

The officials, who declined to be named, said the deficit maintained the same level although the 1989 revenues were higher than the previous year.

The official UAE news agency said revenues were put at 12.84 billion dirhams ($3.49 billion) as against expenditures of 14.65 billinn dirhams ($3.99 billion).

In 1988, revenues were $110 million less at 12.42 billion dirhams ($3.38 billion) while the government spent 14.25 billion dirhams ($3.88 billion), it added. It gave no more details.

The emirates, like other oil-exporting nations, has suffered budget deficits since 1982 when the oil bonanza of the 1970s turned sour and oil prices began sliding, reaching their lowest dip in 1986.

When prices improved, the deficit narrowed but remained chronic, with the highest deficit being $5.5 billinn in 1983. The UAE has also been issuing its budgets for the fiscal Jan.-Dec., years months behind schedule. In 1987 the deficit was $2.9 billion.

The seven emirates making up the UAE — Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ras Al Khaimah, Umm Al Quwain, Ajman, and Fujairah — should pay half their income to the federal budget according to the constitution.

But sources blamed the budget deficit on their failure to do so, saying only Abu Dhabi and Dubai, the two largest of the seven emirates, lived up to their commitments.

The federal authorities have so far succeeded in offsetting a mere 2.5 billion dirhams ($680 million) of the budget deficit through measures like imposing fees on health and other public services. There is no taxation in the country.

Meanwhile, the United Arab Emirates does not want to accept a binding OPEC quota due to independent oil production programmes by individual emirates and a need for cash to support major projects, Gulf oil industry sources said.

"Oil is a very precious commodity. There should be no restrictions on production," an oil industry executive in the UAE said.

Oil ministers of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), meeting in Vienna, have tried to agree on an output quota which the UAE will accept.

But conference sources in Vienna said OPEC might have to reach an agreement on quotas for the first half of 1990 without the participation of the UAE.

Gulf oil industry sources said there were several reasons behind the UAE's hesitancy to join other OPEC members in accepting a production limit.

They said each of the seven emirates comprising the UAE had sovereignty over its oil and mineral reserves and this was a major obstacle to reaching a joint oil policy.

Abu Dhabi, the biggest oil producer in the UAE, has recently changed its long-term oil production philosophy in favour of pumping more in the short-term to acquire cash while the demand for crude is strong, they said.

It is also concerned that a new source of energy could take the place of oil in the medium-term, they said.

Abu Dhabi has plans for major projects to increase output capacity while Dubai, the second biggest UAE producer, is also searching for more oil, industry sources said.

The UAE, along with Kuwait, another big Gulf oil producer, is currently exceeding its OPEC quota, saying it is far too small for its reserves and production capacity.

The semi-official Al Ittihad newspaper based in Abu Dhabi said in a report from Vienna that it expected the UAE to reject a 1.5 million barrels per day (b/d) quota offer, proposed during the current ministerial talks.

It said UAE output was now around 2.6 million b/d, compared with its current quota of 1.094 million b/d.

Investments surge in Turkey

ISTANBUL (R) — Foreign investment in Turkey has soared again in 1989 despite warnings that inflation and rough-and-tumble politics would scare multinationals off.

Permits for a record $900 million of new investment in Turkey were authorised in the first 10 months of the year, State Planning Organisation (SPO) chief Ali Tigrel told an Istanbul business seminar.

"One can observe tremendous investment potential here," Herman Muegge, head of research at the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation, told the seminar.

About 300 foreign companies have registered in Turkey this year, bringing the total to 1,400, mostly involved in trade and services. West Germany led with 216 companies, followed by Iran with 161 and the United States with 120.

About $550 million of investment would be realised in 1989, compared to about $400 million in 1988, Ibrahim Cakir of the planning organisation's foreign investment department told Reuters.

The planned 1989 total of $1.25 billion of permits authorised might still be reached if paperwork goes through for the Ankara metro and a major power station, Cakir said.

The sums compare with a steady annual $100 million a few years ago.

Only 91 foreign companies were operating in Turkey in 1979, since when large strides have modernised Turkish banks, telecommunications, transport and financial markets..

Some businessmen say decisions behind the deals were made before inflation soared to a current annual 73 per cent and cracks appeared in the ruling centre-right Motherland Party.

But others said Turkey was still a good bet, including Yves-Marie Laouenan, soon to be appointed general manager of five cement factories bought from the Turkish government this year for nearly $120 million.

"I believe this market has great potential, even with zero growth," Laouenan told Reuters.

Economic growth crashed in Turkey in late 1988 but the SPO's Tigrel said GNP growth was likely to recover by end-year from an 0.2 per cent based on figures for the first six months. Growth was 3.4 per cent in 1988 and 7.4 per cent in 1987.

Foreign academics at the seminar said Turkey still had major obstacles to overcome to attract foreign investors.

"Why is it that Turkey lags behind? Is it because there is insufficient resources mobilisation and a lack of interaction among various players?" Muegge asked.

Professor Geoffrey Carliner, head of the National Economic Research Bureau at Cambridge, Massachusetts, said Turkey and developing countries should start by cutting budget deficits.

"Controlling budget deficits by printing cash through the central bank leads to inflation not only in developing countries but in developed countries as well," Carliner said.

"The private sector should be encouraged... fifty years ago there was a shortage of entrepreneurs in Turkey. But state enterprises are no longer needed here," Carliner said.

Tigrel said it was important that the central bank should not continue to finance the deficits of state industry, long blamed by economists for fuelling inflation.

Sudanese trader presses for Arab investments

KUWAIT (AP) — Leader of the Sudan's military junta Lieutenant-General Omar Al Bashir arrived here Monday seeking Arab investment as he grapples with the problem of southern rebels and an economy in shambles.

Bashir is visiting Kuwait and neighbouring Qatar, two of the richest Arab oil producing nations.

In interviews with the Kuwaiti newspaper Al Anbaa and the Qatari newspaper Al Raya to coincide with his Gulf tour, Bashir said the climate in his country had become "propitious for Arab investments after the government's combatted corruption."

A new investment law has been drafted and investment opportunities outlined in preparation for discussion by an investors conference soon to be hosted by Khartoum.

Aside from public and private investments, Sudan needs extensive direct government aid to offeset a foreign debt of some $14 billion. Of this, $10 billion is owed to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) making Sudan the largest foreign debtor of the IMF.

The emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, has pledged to work for an international solution for the alleviation of Third World debts.

Bashir chaired a conference last month to discuss economic adjustments to meet IMF requirements for rescheduling the debt.

British Steel report higher profit

LONDON (R) — British Steel PLC, once a creaking monolith and now one of the world's most efficient steelmakers, has announced sharply higher profits for the six months to the end of September.

Pre-tax profits rose sharply to £423 million ($668 million) from £270 million ($426.6 million) in the same period last year.

The results were well above analysts' forecasts of around £360 million ($569 million).

Turnover for the half-year under review was £2.55 billion ($4.03 billion) compared with £2.33 billion ($5.94 billion) in the same six months of 1988.

British Steel was privatised last December and is seen by share analysts as one of the most striking success stories of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's transformation of British industry during the 1980s.

But British Steel sounded a note of caution.

"The recent easing in steel demand, coupled with the rise in the U.K. inflation rate, is bound to have an effect which will become apparent in the trading profit in the second half of the year," the company said in a statement.

"Nevertheless (we) expect that the profit before tax for the current year as a whole will be above that of the very good result achieved in 1988/89."

A decade ago British Steel, beleaguered with too many employees, demoralised management and recalcitrant unions, was turning in big losses. Massive job cuts brought its balance sheet back into the black.

The British Steel statement warned of more cost-cutting.

"Weaker market conditions in the U.K. will carry over into next year's trading profit, although market conditions in mainland Europe are expected to remain relatively strong," it said.

"In these circumstances there is a need to increase efforts in respect of cost reduction," it added.

British Telecom, another nationalised industry privatised by the Thatcher government five years ago, also reported an increase in profits and unveiled job cuts.,

Pre-tax for the six months until the end of September rose to £1.31 billion ($2.1 billion) from £1.24 billion ($1.96 billion) in the same period last year. Turnover was £5.95 billion ($9.4 billion) compared with £5.41 billion ($8.54 billion).

Figures on poverty spark stir in Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — A row has erupted in Israel over official statistics showing that half a million citizens, 12 per cent of the population, live below the poverty line.

The issue is sensitive at a time when the Jewish state, built on mass immigration, is seeking to attract hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews.

The National Insurance Institute published the figures last week in an apparent response to finance ministry moves to cut welfare benefits while spending more on the military.

Among the most needy in 1988 were 223,000 children, a sharp increase over the previous year, the institute said.

Deputy Finance Minister Yossi Beilin, the closest aide to finance minister and Labour Party leader Shimon Peres, sparked controversy by challenging the data and saying that no Israeli was starving for bread.

"The poverty line is quite arbitrary. Not everyone under it is poor," he told a meeting in Haifa.

Beilin, usually on the dovish left of Labour, was assailed from both left and right. Peres broke off a radio interview when asked about his outspoken deputy's remarks.

Officials said the poverty line was defined as an income of less than $615 a month for a family of four in August, the latest month for which figures were available.

Unemployment, traditionally low in Israel's economy, has risen to nine per cent this year — the highest level since a depression in the mid-1960s.

The figures appeared to suggest that many Israelis who have low-paid jobs in public service fall below the poverty line.

Peres told the cabinet the figures did not include welfare benefits which put many families above the line.

OECD: U.S. can avoid recession, inflation in '90

PARIS (R) — The United States can avoid both recession and excessive inflation next year if the Federal Reserve (Fed) keeps an even grip on credit policy, the OECD said Monday.

But the U.S. economic outlook will be dogged by its trade and budget deficits, which risk remaining stubbornly high over the coming year.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the 24-nation Western think tank, said in its latest U.S. review that price rises may be fanned if the Fed cuts interest rates too swiftly to avoid a recession.

Analysts last week detected an easing of Fed credit policy, apparently in response to data suggesting an economic slowdown. That was the second perceived credit easing this month.

The OECD report, compiled before these two moves, said that there were arguments for relaxing monetary policy when activity slackens significantly.

"However, for this to be done while the economy remains close to full capital would entail the risk of a rebound in domestic demand which could exacerbate inflationary pressures," it added.

Despite such caution, the OECD's latest inflation and growth forecasts are a shade more optimistic than previous projections made in June.

U.S. inflation is expected to hold just under five per cent in 1990. Previously, the OECD estimated it to be 5.25 per cent. It is expected to average 4.2 per cent in the second half of 1989.

The OECD forecast gross national product (GNP) growth at 2.5 per cent next year, the same as in the second half of 1989.

Top banks take varied tacks in game for big returns

LONDON (R) — Leading banks, struggling to compensate for doubtful Third World loans and dwindling markets for traditional services, are trying out new strategies to maximise their earnings.

A Reuter survey of bankers in key financial centres shows that in some cases strategies tailored to specific market places touch upon common areas such as retail (commercial) banking.

Other such areas include lending to medium-sized companies or asset repackaging — the grouping of loans such as mortgages into a managed account and the issuing of bonds whose principal and interest payments are met by income derived from them.

Some banks, however, are aiming to capitalise on special developments such as the single European Community market after 1992 or post-war reconstruction in the Gulf.

In the United States, the name of the game is fee income — earnings from fees for such services as investment banking activities or financial advice rather than from such classic sources as the margin between loan interest rates and deposit account interest.

Other U.S. banks are targetting lucrative non-bank niche businesses such as lease financing — generally loans made to leasing companies that use receipts on lease agreements to meet principal and interest payments.

Another approach is to stress consumer banking.

Citicorp Chairman John Reed says he wants to raise the consumer earnings contribution to about 70 per cent from 40 per cent by the mid 1990s.

Some U.S. banks, including Citicorp, are expanding their credit card businesses.

Most U.S. banks stress not only the retail customer, but also so-called middle market lending to corporate borrowers with $10 to $250 million in annual sales.

In Japan, banks are following a three-year trend away from lending to major manufacturing companies.

Big manufacturers now are either cash rich and less in need of borrowing or shifting focus to shares and corporate bonds.

As in the United States, the Japanese emphasis is on retail lending, as well as mid-sized firms and service companies.

"Industry-wide, lending to the services sector should grow faster," says Hiroshi Uchida, vice president of the research at C.S. First Boston (Japan) Ltd. "Pressure from the U.S. to improve the distribution system should create new lending opportunities."

Loans to the service industry sector in Japan rose to account for 14.3 per cent of overall outstanding loans in July, compared with 13.7 per cent a year earlier.

Retail lending advanced at an even faster rate, climbing to 14.8 per cent from 12.9 per cent a year earlier.

Meanwhile loans to the manufacturing sector fell sharply to 16.9 per cent of outstanding lending from 19.1 per cent.

Bankers said the trend to the retail sector corresponds with broader changes in the Japanese economy such as reduced exports and expanding services, as well as the government's stated objective of expanding domestic demand to cut trade surpluses.

British banks also are trying to squeeze the best margins possible out of the retail lending market, which remains one of the most lucrative in Europe in terms of lending margins.

"Although lending has slowed it is still pretty high quality," said Peter Hewitt, research director at fund manager Ivory and Sime PLC. "Lending margins vary but the banks are always going to make a margin."

Much lending has been in the corporate sector, mainly in the small to medium size business range. But there are worries about bad debts due to reports of falling manufactured goods orders.

One response has been to move into financial services such as pensions and life assurance.

"We can expect to see more emphasis on fee rather than interest income," said Michael Lever of London brokers Smith Newcourt.

Some British banks have sought to shore up a weakening domestic market by overseas expansion. Overseas earnings, which in most cases accounts for barely 10 per cent of earnings, are expected to double in the next couple of years.

Some Western bankers contemplate the prospects for lending to reform-minded East European countries, but Swiss banks look unlikely to join any into that area unless the Swiss government were to back new loans.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Monday November 27, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell			
			French franc	104.9	105.9
			Japanese yen (for 100)	446.6	451.1
U.S. dollar	640.0	646.0	Dutch guilder	317.6	320.8
Pound Sterling	1000.6	1010.6	Swedish crown	100.3	101.3
Deutschemark	358.2	361.8	Italian lira (for 100)	48.5	49.0
Swiss franc	400.4	404.4	Belgian franc (for 10)	167.9	169.6

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullinn markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.5555/65	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1660/70	Canadian dollar
	1.7895/902	Deutschemarks
	2.0180/90	Dutch guilders
	1.6010/20	Swiss francs
	37.58/60	Belgian francs
	6.1100/50	French francs
	1322/1323	Italian lire
	143.35/45	Japanese yen
	6.3875/925	Swedish crowns
	6.8300/50	Norwegian crowns
	6.9475/525	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	417.25/417.75	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — The share market ignored a strong close on Wall Street Friday and a continuing surge in the price of gold to drift in thin trade to a weaker close. The All Ordinaries closed 1.7 down at 1,614.2.

TOKYO — Stocks skyrocketed to close at new highs in active trade for the fourth straight day. The Nikkei Index soared 397.06 to close at a record 36,881.53.

HONG KONG — Share prices ended weaker in thin, uninspired trade. The Hang Seng Index fell 31.43 to 2,777.10.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed generally firmer, but off highs in moderately active trading. The Straits Times Industrial Index ended 8.38 higher at 1,393.65.

BOMBAY — The Bombay stock market shrugged off poll reverses to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and the prospect of coalition government, pushing prices broadly up.

FRANKFURT — Profit-taking pushed German share prices down from midsession highs and blue chips closed below Friday's levels. The Real-Time Dax Index closed 1.11 lower at 1,554.37.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed firm but below the day's highs as follow-through buying failed to materialise after a firm opening. The Performance Index ended 1.6 higher at 1,129,4.

PARIS — French shares lost modest opening gains by midsession, with little followthrough interest. The CAC-40 index edged lower to 1856.39 by around 1210 GMT.

LONDON — Share prices were mixed in late business, standing near the day's highs, helped by an 18 point increase on Wall Street. By 1610 GMT the FTSE index was 2.3 up at 2,224.7.

NEW YORK — Hopes for lower interest rates pushed Wall Street stocks higher in early activity. The Dow rose 15 to 2690.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

"I can spend the rest of my life complaining because you have a screw loose, or I can do something about it!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TYKIT

BYGAG

NIPURT

AMRUTE

ONE SURE WAY TO BEAT THE STOCK MARKET.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: JUST "____ ____!"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: WHILE AFTER BUSILY AMBUSH
Answer: What's the underground movement that's going on in many big cities?—THE SUBWAY

Peanuts

ANDY CAPP

Mutt'n' Jeff

Bayern Munich struggles to reassert dominance

LONDON (R) — After two decades of largely unbroken success, Bayern Munich's recent form in the West German first division suggests they may find life in the 1990's a little more difficult.

Hit by injuries, the Bavarian club, who won the European Cup in three consecutive years in the mid-1970s and who have taken the league title four times in the last five seasons, continued their poor run in the Bundesliga at the weekend when they were trounced 4-0 by Nuremberg, their heaviest defeat since 1985.

The result prompted midfielder Hans Dorfner to suggest his side needed a quick solution to their problems before the quarter-finals of the European Cup early next year.

"We played like a bunch of schoolkids," Dorfner said, aware that Cologne had taken advantage of Bayern's misfortunes to snatch a one-point lead at the top after a 2-1 win over Bochum. Bayern slipped to third behind Bayer Leverkusen, two points back of Cologne.

In Italy, defending champions Internazionale have also had recent injury problems and feared the worst when West German striker Juergen Klinsmann was carried off during the 2-1 defeat at Atalanta on Sunday.

With German International captain Lothar Matthaeus already out of action, possibly until Christmas, with a leg injury, Inter manager Giovanni Trapattoni was relieved to learn that Klinsmann's knee injury is not as serious as initially feared. He is likely to be missing for no more than two weeks.

Inter's Italian international stopper Riccardo Ferri, however, is expected to be out for three months with an injury to his right shoulder.

AC Milan are well on the way back towards challenging league leaders Napoli after a 2-0 home win against Lecce and Juventus manager Dino Zoff also suggested that Napoli are not invincible after watching his side hold them to a 1-1 draw in Turin.

It was a bad weekend for goalkeepers in the Spanish league. Among high-scoring contests, Real Madrid trounced Zaragoza 7-2 to maintain their three-point lead over Barcelona, and bottom-placed Rayo Vallecano drew 4-4 with Atletico Madrid.

Mexican Hugo Sanchez scored two of Real's goals to increase his lead as the league's top scorer with 14 goals and John Toshack's side have now scored 32 goals in seven games.

Hugo Maradona, Diego's younger brother, scored two of Rayo Vallecano's four goals but his side have still only won twice in 13 games this season. Atletico Madrid are fifth in the table, four points behind Real.

PSV Eindhoven's Brazilian striker Romario donned black leggings and gloves, shrugged off the cold and fired both goals as his side beat Fortuna Sittard 2-0 to remain on top of the Dutch league.

Romario, the leading scorer in Dutch soccer this season with 14 goals, put PSV ahead with a typically sharp turn and shot on 39 minutes and sealed victory with an 85th minute penalty.

Ajax are a point behind in second after a 1-0 home win over Willem II, the winner coming after two minutes from Hungarian striker Pal Fischer.

Roda JC are level on points with Ajax, and maintained their challenge with a 1-0 win at NEC thanks to a goal from Rene Trost. PSV have a game in hand on both clubs.

Marseille lost ground on French league leaders Bordeaux on Saturday as they were held to a disappointing 0-0 draw at Nantes.

Former Nantes captain Didier Deschamps, making his debut against his former team mates following his 17 million francs ($3 million) transfer last week, was unable to inspire his new colleagues. The result left Bordeaux, who beat struggling racing Paris at the Parc des Princes 3-1 on Saturday, three points clear of their arch-rivals for the title.

In Portugal, Benfica's Mats Magnusson found his scoring touch again after a three-week lean spell with his fourth hat-trick of the season.

The Swedish striker has now scored 17 goals in only nine league games following his side's 4-0 home victory over Maritimo.

But the champions, with a match in hand, still lie three points behind leaders Porto who strolled to a 7-0 victory over Tirsense with Rui Aguas also scoring a hat-trick.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

SELES DEFEATS MALEEVA: Monica Seles of Yugoslavia defeated Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria 6-1, 7-5 Sunday, winning the $500,000 Nokia Masters women's tennis tournament. The 15-year-old Seles easily controlled the first set, winning it in 30 minutes. But the second was far tougher, with the 22-year-old Maleeva suddenly rallying in an effort to save the match and Seles looking for a quick win. Finding her stride, Maleeva went ahead 5-4 in the second set, giving Seles a workout as the young Yugoslav had to chase across the court trying to fend off the Bulgarian's powerful volleys. Seles, a left-hander who lives in Florida, tied it up 5-5 and finally went ahead 6-5. But Maleeva kept intense pressure on the Yugoslav, who had trouble keeping the ball out of the net or in bounds. Seles finally won on her fourth matchball, as Maleeva sent the ball flying into the net. The match lasted 87 minutes.

KASPAROV BEATS SHORT IN BELGRADE: World champion Gary Kasparov beat Britain's Nigel Short in 104 moves Sunday in a continuation of their game from the ninth round of the Belgrade international chess tournament. "The position was probably a draw, but I played badly," Short said. Iceland's Johan Hjardarson agreed to declare his adjourned match with Kasparov a draw, giving Kasparov a 2.5 advantage over the Netherlands' Jan Timman and the Soviet Union's Jan Ehelvest.

SELES DONATES PART OF HER PRIZE TO ORPHANS: Monica Seles hammered out a 6-1, 7-5 victory over Bulgarian Manuela Maleeva in a women's invitation tournament here Sunday then pledged part of her $200,000 first prize to orphans in her native Yugoslavia and the United States. Seles, 15, said after lifting the biggest cash win of her short career: "I would never have believed that I would leave this tournament as the winner. After all, apart from Steffi Graf, four other players are ahead of me in the world rankings."

DALGLISH CRITICISES LINESMAN: Liverpool manager Kenny Dalglish criticised a linesman on Sunday for ignoring a seriously-injured player during his team's 2-1 home win against Arsenal. Liverpool defender Barry Venison had clashed heads with fellow defender Glenn Hysen eight minutes into the match and was later taken to hospital suffering from concussion. "Everyone could see he was unsure on his feet and didn't know where he was, except the linesman. You could excuse the referee, but the linesman was right there," said Dalglish.

BRITISH ABANDON MANASLU EXPEDITION: A British team has abandoned its climb on the 8,163-metre Mount Manaslu because of strong winds on the world's seventh-tallest mountain, according to a message received from the team Monday. The 13-member team had gone as high as 7,057 meters before giving up, the message said. The team was led by David Adrian Burgess, 41, a mountain guide from the United States.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1989

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: This day is fine for whatever is unique, unusual and progressive so get busy and do those things which are sparkling and new age in dimension.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Look for money coming to you from a new project. Put your house in perfect working condition for entertaining.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Don't be upset because a good friend is going away. It is time for you to go on vacation with your family.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Don't push business matters or you will regret your impatience. Be cautious with the money you spend today.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Go along with what a good friend wants you to do. A brilliant person will show you how to make money.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Accept all kinds of new ideas that will help with home improvements. You can now, take that trip with your family.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Be careful not to be critical of friends today. It is important that you do not argue with your mate today.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Accept an invitation from a friend for a social event. An associate will give you the solution to a business problem.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Go with friends out for the evening. Home will be a good place to meet with influential people.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Join in entertaining as many people as possible at this time. This is your time to economise with money.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Being more enthusiastic about your business matters will be important. Many activities will happen at home.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You will need to study carefully any business projects that happen today. Invite many friends into your home today.

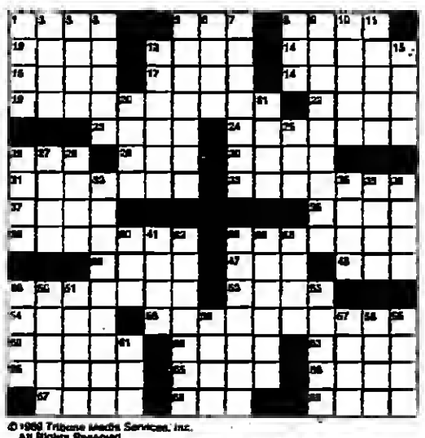
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) All sorts of good ideas for business are yours today. Don't let an outside associate disturb your happy home.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she will fit very nicely into this New Age and will conduct themselves in such a way that others will respect them highly. Attaining a position of trust and social status in later life, this person may run for public office or hold a high corporate position.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

THE Daily Crossword

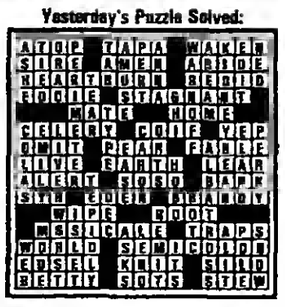
by Judson G. Trent



ACROSS
1 Kind of line
5 Madison Ave. output
8 Lilith's man?
12 Nimbus
13 Crow crop
14 Fr. sculptor
16 Gudrun's spouse
17 Folklore giant
18 Porkers
19 Speakers in opposition
22 Garish light
23 Liquid measure
24 Take a risk
28 Scarf
29 Kickoff prop
30 Jug
31 Retorts
33 Show contempt toward
37 "—, but the wind" (DHL)
38 Ma Bayes
39 — out (made rapidly)
43 Moving by degrees
46 Quote as authority
47 Done to Donne
48 Common abbr.
49 Hassock
52 Borge e.g.
54 Soviet sea
55 Bargain offering
60 Picture puzzle
62 Abound
63 Domesticated
64 Al. city
65 Shore birds
66 Pollster Roper
67 Car damage
68 Peter
69 Inlets

DOWN
1 Rug type
2 Toodle-oo
3 "— want for..."
4 Under way
5 Certain socks
6 Challenge
7 Veers
8 — longa, vita brevis
9 Bear market feature
10 Farewell
11 Pre-teen
13 Fuel vessel
15 Hilo hooker
20 Location
21 Bested
25 Formerly called
26 Judge's seat
27 — about
28 Thin Man's dog
32 Grid standings portion
34 Raka
35 Smell — (be leery)
36 Powder base
40 Ma Basinger
41 Rel. of 48A
42 Designated
43 Mama e.g.
44 Kingdoms
45 Br. composer
49 Shell blades
50 Cornered
51 Postpone
53 Trencherman
56 Antitoxins
57 Surrealist
58 Ms Sarms
59 Old cars
61 Wolted

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

DON'T TRUST A POLITICIAN

Neither vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ 2
♡ Q 10 4 3 2
◇ K 9 5 4
♣ A Q 3

WEST
♠ 9 8 5 3
♡ 7 6
◇ A 10 2
♣ 9 6 5 4

EAST
♠ K J 10 6 4
♡ J 9
◇ Q 6
♣ K 8 7 2

SOUTH
♠ A Q 7
♡ A K 8 5
◇ J 8 7 3
♣ J 10

The bidding:

East	South	West	North
Pass	1 ♡	Pass	4 ♡
Pass	Pass	Pass	

Opening lead: ?

One of the highlights of the British socialbridge calendar is the annual match between the House of Commons and the House of Lords. Started fifteen years ago by Rixi Markus, the House of Lords had an 8-6 lead going into this year's match. They won again, despite this fine effort by Dr. L. Moonie of the Commons, which won him the Brilliancy Prize.

At both tables the contract was four hearts. Sitting South for the Lords was perhaps their most accomplished player, Lord Lever. The British still use four-card majors, so the opening bid was automatic. Since a jump raise in three hearts would be invitational in their methods, North chose to jump in game.

With nothing to guide him, West found the devilish opening lead of the ten of diamonds! Not surprisingly, declarer called for a low diamond from dummy, and a startled East found his queen had won the trick. A diamond return went to the ace, and East ruffed the diamond *continuation to complete the defensive book.* Declarer had no way to avoid losing a trick to the king of clubs for down one.

The opening lead was less inspired in the other room. West led a routine top-of-nothing spade, and declarer had no difficulty in holding his losers to two diamonds and a club.

We have learned that political *speeches should be treated with* a pinch of salt. Are we going to have to extend this policy to the bridge table as well?

Czechs strike for reform; Moscow approves changes

PRAGUE (R) — Czechoslovak workers by the million staged a two-hour strike Monday to press demands for democracy while Moscow signalled approval for the reform progress and pledged not to interfere.

The Soviet Union also condemned the previous hardline leadership in Czechoslovakia, where 10 days of mass street protests have forced two communist party reshuffles in three days, with ousted conservatives being replaced by reformers.

"The Soviet leadership clearly understands, and I would say solemnly declares, that freedom of choice is one of the primary principles of our foreign policy," Andrei Grachev, a senior Soviet official, told a news conference in Rome.

The two-hour strike on Monday started just hours after the second reshuffle in the ruling politburo which ousted three hardliners and brought in at least two reformers. Last Friday, hardline party chief Milos Jakes was replaced by Karel Urbanek.

Half a million people marched through Prague during the strike and television showed hundreds of thousands massing in at least seven other major cities including Bratislava and Brno.

Elsewhere in the East bloc, four radical Hungarian opposition parties claimed they had won the country's first referendum and succeeded in postponing presidential elections due in January until next spring.

In Bulgaria, where old-style leader Todor Zhivkov was ousted after 35 years in power earlier this month, trade unions are demanding the closure of dangerous factories as part of their efforts to speed long-awaited economic reforms.

Deposed King Michael of Romania urged the superpowers to act together to oust Romanian leader Nicolae Ceausescu, who has firmly set himself against following other East bloc states along the path of reform.

In Prague, church bells, sirens and car horns sounded as the strike called by Civil Forum took hold. Workers at other 700 factories and enterprises had voted to join the stoppage, from the huge Skoda engineering works and auto plant in Pilzen in the west to the eastern city of Kosice near the Soviet border.

Jiri Kanturek, a lading Civil Forum member, said a Prague rally planned for Monday afternoon was to be the last of the daily protests that began 10 days ago and brought the winds of change blowing across much of Eastern Europe to Czechoslovakia.

Kanturek said it was time for the opposition movement to get down to work. "Today's gathering at the Wenceslas Square will be the last. It's time to work now," he said.

The week-old forum on Sunday presented a seven-point programme calling for a new democratic constitution, free elections and restoration of a market economy.

New party chief Urbanek drove at dawn from a Central Committee meeting where the reshuffle was carried out to the northwestern town of Klando and told miners that party officials should act in a more responsible manner than in the past.

Urbanek on Saturday made a broad offer of political dialogue with opponents and admitted the party had become "isolated from the people and the truth." The same day, eight leading dissidents were pardoned in a further concession.

At another mine, at Komorany in north-west Bohemia near the East German border, striking miners heckled senior managers when they promised change and more consultation in future.

Some 500 strikers chanted "we will not betray the students in Prague," and "We want free elections."

El Salvador suspends diplomatic, commercial ties with Nicaragua

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — President Alfredo Cristiani has suspended diplomatic and commerical relations with Nicaragua's Soviet-backed government to protest alleged weapons smuggling to leftist rebels.

Nicaragua denied involvement in what the Salvadorean government said was an attempt to supply the rebels with two planeloads of arms.

Also Sunday, police arrested an American woman and said they confiscated 80,000 rounds of ammunition, explosives, detonators and grenades stored in her house and several other locations.

Cristiani announced the diplomatic move in a nationally televised address one day after military authorities discovered two light planes delivering weapons to the rebels fighting the U.S.-backed government.

One plane crashed in eastern El Salvador and army troops recovered mostly Soviet weapons, including 25 shoulder-fired surface-to-air missiles. One of the missiles was U.S.-made. Three crewmen died, and the fourth committed suicide.

The other plane apparently was able to unload its cargo after landing in the southern part of the country, but it was unable to take off either for lack of fuel or other reasons and was set on fire by its crew, which then fled.

Three photographers were detained briefly by the military Sunday when they went to photograph the plane.

Juana Anderson of the Associated Press, Dayna Smith of the Washington Post and Daymon Hartley of the Detroit Free Press all were held for not having permission to be in the zone of the plane.

Cristiani told a news conference relations will remain suspended until Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega "stops intervening in El Salvador" or is ousted in national elections on Feb. 25.

Missiles and other weapons taken from the wreckage of the plane that crashed were displayed at the news conference.

As Cristiani spoke, sounds of renewed fighting — automatic weapons and exploding rockets — could be heard after a pause of several days.

Later, the military explained in a news release that an army patrol had sighted a group of guerrillas near a power transformer on the north west edge of the capital and helicopters and C-47 warplanes chased them as they fled up the slopes of San Salvador Volcano.

The aircraft rocketed and strafed the area for several hours.

In a statement issued in Managua, the Nicaraguan government denied any connection with the two planes. It quoted Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto as saying: "The Salvadorean government should think about the seriousness of the declarations and actions that the news media are attributing to them, and about the serious implications in the regional peace process."

In Managua, Ortega said Sunday it gives "honour and pride" to the Nicaraguan people that the government "of assassins of priests and religious workers" in El Salvador broke relations with Nicaragua.

He apparently was referring at least in part to the Nov. 16 massacre of six Jesuit priests, their cook and her daughter at a Roman Catholic University residence. Other Jesuits at the school say witnesses saw army troops enter the residence before the killings. The government has denied responsibility.

"We will demand that the international community and the peoples of the world break relations with this bloody and murderous government until they have punished the assassins of the priests and people of El Salvador," he added.

Both the United States and a succession of U.S.-supported governments here have accused Nicaragua's Sandinista government of providing secret military assistance to the guerrillas in their decade-old war for power. The Sandinistas deny it.

Saturday's discovery of the arms shipments was the first concrete evidence to back up the Salvadorean accusations.

Cristiani called the leaders of the rebel Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, or FMLN "puppets of Communist aggression."

Army officer kills Comoros president

PARIS (R) — President Ahmad Abdallah of the Comoros Islands was shot dead by a disgruntled army officer, a senior French government sources said Monday.

The officer was identified as Major Ahmad Mohammad. His fate was uncertain.

The source said his information was based on a telephone call Monday to officials in the Comoros capital, Moroni — one of few calls to reach the Indian Ocean archipelago where communications have been virtually cut since the assassination Sunday night.

He said the officer appeared to be motivated by personal revenge as he was either about to be or had just been stripped of his post as chief of staff of the Comoros Armed Forces.

Other French sources said the major may not have acted alone. The situation in the Comoros appeared confused and there were reports of troop movements Monday.

Earlier, French Foreign Ministry sources had said the situation was calm.

The senior government source said the shooting took place in Abdallah's private residence on a hill a few hundred metres from the presidential palace.

A French overseas radio network, Radio France Outre-Mer, said earlier Monday that Adballah had been killed during a military assault on the palace.

But it said there were no sings of a military takeover as the head of the supreme court had been asked to act as interim president in accordance with the constitution.

Abdallah was placed in power by white mercenaries who invaded the islands in 1978. The former French protectorate of less than 500,000 people consists of three islands between Africa and Madagascar.

Radio Mayotte, broadcasting from Mayotte — the only island of the four-island Comoros Archipelago still ruled by France — said Abdallah and one of his bodyguards were killed and the government had declared 40 days of mourning.

The radio, broadcasting in French from the Indian Ocean island, was monitored in Nairobi.

Abdallah, whose 500-strong presidential bodyguard was commanded by about 20 European mercenaries, had close links with France and South Africa.

Opposition candidate wins Honduran elections

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — Opposition presidential candidate Rafael Leonardo Callejas has claimed victory, saying Hondurans beset by economic problems and regional wars want a change.

"We have triumphed because the people demanded a government that has answers," Callejas told a joyous crowd at election headquarters Sunday.

Crowds gathered in the streets and cheered passing trucks loaded with Callejas supporters. Gunshots fired in the air sounded in some neighbourhoods.

"If the present trend continues, Callejas will win," said Jorge Roberto Maradiaga, treasurer of the ruling Liberal Party, in a telephone interview.

"The people will regret this. The oligarchy is coming back," he added.

In unofficial radio and television returns from about 45 per cent of precincts, Callejas had 443,287 votes, or about 50.2 per cent, to Liberal Carlos Flores' 392,309, or about 44.5 per cent.

Official returns, much slower in coming, showed a narrower lead for Callejas. After announcing Callejas had 44,538 votes to Flores' 43,383, the electoral tribunal announced that its computer had crashed and closed for the night.

Minor parties took the rest of the vote. Only a plurality was needed to win.

Election day was peaceful and officials placed the voter turnout at about 85 per cent. People went to the polls in flag-decked trucks, buses and cars and on foot and horseback.

The major issued in the campaign was a stagnant economy and unpopular incumbent President Jose Azcona Hoyo's weak Liberal government. Azcona, elected in 1985, is barred by law from seeking another term.

Half a million refugees fleeing civil wars in neighbouring El Salvador and Nicaragua have sharpened economic problems that include per capita income of only about $500 a year, high unemployment and inflation, and little industry.

If Callejas takes office for a four-year term on Jan. 27, it will mark the first transition of power to an opposition party since 1932. Sunday's was also the nation's third free presidential election of the decade, after years of military-dominated rule.

Callejas, 46, comes from a landowning family and was trained as an agricultural economist. Flores, 39, is publisher of La Tribuna, one of the nation's leading newspapers.

Sihanouk backs proposal to put Cambodia under U.N. trusteeship

PEKING (AP) — Cambodian resistance leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk said Monday he supported an Australian proposal under which rival governments in Cambodia would be disbanded and the war-torn nation be put under a United Nations trusteeship.

Sihanouk said at a news conference that after the proposed trusteeship was in place, he would be willing to see the tripartite government he heads vacate its U.N. seat.

But the prince said he still prefers his own plan for a provisional quadripartite government in which his three-party group, which includes the Khmer Rouge, would join with the Vietnam-backed Hun Sen government in Phnom Penh.

Vietnam has rejected that plan because of the factor Khmer Rouge participation.

"There's no consensus. There's no way to get out of the nightmare, and the victim is the Cambodian people," Sihanouk said. "We have to come up with a new idea."

He said that as an alternative he would be willing to go along with a proposal by Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans that the rival governments be dismantled and the U.N. oversee public affairs for a short period until U.N.-supervised general elections are held.

Sihanouk said he expected that some Western nations, which have voiced strong reservations about the Khmer Rouge joining any interim government, will back the proposals, but that the Khmer Rouge and its key supporter China would reject the idea.

Sihanouk, a former Cambodian monarch and premier, responded to Western criticisms that he had become an "accomplice" of the Khmer Rouge.

"I don't trust the Khmer Rouge. I know that the Khmer Rouge are capable of violating their promises," he said.

But he said that to expel the Khmer Rouge from any future provisional government, as suggested by France, the United States and others, "is to ensure the continuation of the war. The best way to let the Khmer Rouge take power is to let the war go on."

Meanwhile Cambodian guerrillas claimed Monday they had dealt a serious blow to government forces by cutting the main highway linking the national capital of Phnom Penh with two provincial capitals.

The guerrillas blew up 13 strategic bridges last Saturday, cutting off a 25-kilometre stretch of national Highway No. 6 in Kompong Thom province, said a spokesman for the forces of Sihanouk.

The road crosses the entire country, running north west from Phnom Penh to the Thai border and linking Phnom Penh with the provincial capitals of Kompong Thom and Siem Reap.

The spokesman, Ek Sereywath, said an air route now was the government's only way to send supplies to Siem Reap, a relatively large town and a base of military operations for the major battlefields in the north west.

Ek said about 300 guerrillas attacked the highway.

The report could not be immediately confirmed.

Swiss reject draft law to abolish army

GENEVA (AP) — Voters have rejected a draft law that would have abolished the Swiss army by the year 2000, but the proposal won more support than expected and the military said it would study complaints.

Defence Minister Kaspar Villiger said he would set up a panel to study criticisms voiced about the 625,000-strong army in the campaign leading up to Sunday's referendum.

The "Switzerland has no army" constitotional amendment was favoured by 35.6 per cent, or 1,052,218 of those who cast ballots Sunday. Opposed were 64.4 per cent, or 1,903,797.

Polls had predicted the proposal would win a maximum 30 per cent support.

Anti-army activists were jubilant. "It is a slap in the face for the establishment," said Andreas Gross, a spokesman for pacifists and others who had gained the 100,000 signatures needed to force the referendum.

The government had urged voters to reject the proposal, saying a credible defence policy was vital to the independence and neutrality of Switzerland.

Villiger said he did not regard the high number of votes in favour of the proposal as a defeat.

"The relaxation of tension which happily dominates the international scene was probably one factor" for the support, he told reporters.

However, be conceded that many people had used their vote to express dissatisfaction with the way the military functioned.

Eugen Luethy, chief of general staff, admitted the size of the anti-army vote had "exceeded his expectations" but said the result "provided a continuing solid basis for the armed forces."

The Social Democratic Party said it would press it three government coalition partners for a re-evaluation of defence policy, including a change in the law to allow conscientious objectors to perform civilian duties instead of military service.

Turnout for the referendum was 69 per cent, the highest since voters' ranks were swelled in 1971 when women were given the vote.

The heated debate before the referendum was reminiscent of the passions aroused by the question of universal suffrage.

Aquino says Marcos ally slipped in

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — President Corazon Aquino said Monday that Philippine diplomats in the United States issued her archrival cousin a passport without her knowledge, enabling him to slip into the country three years after he was banished.

Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, 54, one of the closest associates of the late President Ferdinand Marcos, slipped into the Philippines last Friday. He had been banished in the 1986 uprising that propelled his first cousin to the presidency.

Cojnangco told reporters Saturday he was issued a passport by the Philippine consulate in Los Angeles. Mrs. Aquino had cancelled her cousin's passport and those of the Marcos family in 1986 after they went into exile in the United States.

Mrs. Aquino told reporters she met Sunday with Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus and the consul general from Los Angeles, Leonides Caday, to discuss how Cojuangco obtained the passport.

"Unfortunately, Secretary Manglapus was never informed that a passport was indeed issued to Danding Cojuangco," she said. "The authority was issued while Secretary Manglapus was out of the country."

Mrs. Aquino said Manglapus accepted responsibility for the oversight but that she had ordered a thorough investigation of the incident.

Cojuangco left the Philippines in February 1986 abroad the same U.S. military aircraft that carried Marcos into exile in Hawaii, where he died on Sept. 28. Mrs. Aquino has refused to allow Marcos to be buried in the Philippines and barred members of his immediate family from returning.

On Saturday, former solicitor Gen. Estelito Mendoza showed reporters a copy of a letter from the Department of Foreign Affairs dated Oct. 19 saying Cojuangco and his family were free to apply for passports in Los Angeles.

Manglapus said the Los Angeles consulate issued the passport on Oct. 26 after being informed by Manila that there was no formal ban against Cojuangco's return.

Cojuangco refused to say how he entered the country. Officials said his name did not appear on the manifests of flights arriving in Manila or the other international airport in Cebu.

Pro-Marcos politicians have offered Cojuangco leadership of the opposition to Mrs. Aquino. Cojuangco claims he wants to avoid politics so as to clear himself of allegations that he helped Marcos embezzle billions of dollars during his 20-year administration.

On Monday, the government filed criminal charges against Cojuangco with the anti-graft court, alleging he fronted for Marcos in the purchase of shares in two publishing companies.

David Castro, an official of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, said the government had delayed filing criminal charges for fear Cojuangco might have insisted on his right to return and defend himself.

"It might be used as an excuse (for returning) and we don't like to be the cause for his coming back," Castro told reporters. "Well, he's here now. It's academic."

The Aquino administration had seized Cojuangco's assets and named him as a defendant in 29 civil suits.

Moscow's Red Army under political attack

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Red Army, officially touted as the brave defender of the motherland, came under attack Sunday from a group that charged abuse, nepotism, hazing and poor living conditions are ruining the troops.

About 200 Soviets, some wearing gray wool army coats, huddled in an icy parking lot in south west Moscow for a demonstration sponsored by Shield, an organisation formed last month to defend the soldiers from the army itself.

"No to violence and cruelty in the USSR army," demanded the banners held by protesters. "Life and health to the soldier."

The rally coincided with a campaign in the domestic media that has chipped away at the army's privileged position, charging it is lagging behind perestroika, President Mikhail Gorbachev's social reform programme.

"The army is still in stagnation with corruption and nepotism," Lt. Vitaly G. Urazhetsev told the crowd. "The army is the place today where conservative forces are concentrated."

He said perestroika could be doomed by a military coup engineered by "Brezhnev-era generals and marshals," referring to the rule of Leonid Brezhnev from 1964-1982.

Maria I. Kirbasova, who said she heads a committee of soldiers' mothers, told the crowd conscripts are afraid to speak out when they are beaten or sexually attacked.

She also demanded that mothers be allowed to deliver food to their sons, who she said are given just 1.60 roubles ($2.60) worth of food daily and receive a monthly salary of 7 roubles ($11.34).

But Vladimir Savostin, an officer at the Lenin Military-Political Academy, countered that the army makes boys into men and ready to be independent and hardworking after they are discharged. Soldiers have the full rights of every citizen to seek justice, he said.

But the Soviet press has cast a different picture, highlighting such problems as:

— Murders and torture of soldiers. Lt. A. Shustov wrote in the literary journal Znamya in August that a soldier becomes a "grandfather" in his second year of service and takes on the role of a "teacher."

— A quarter of the soldiers drafted this spring had police records.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

13 killed in S. African violence

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Thirteen blacks, including three policemen, have been killed in the latest outbreak of factional fighting in Natal province, police said Monday. A total of six policemen have been killed in the province in the past week. Police headquarters has not said whether the attacks on the policemen were connected, and its report of other killings Sunday gave few details. Feuding among political groups, rural clans, and criminal gangs have claimed more than 3,000 lives in the Zulu areas of Natal over the past three years. Most of the fighting has been between supporters of Inkatha, a Zulu political organisation headed by Mangosuthu Buthelezi, and members of the banned United Democratic Front, a multi-racial organisation.

Uruguay opposition elected president

MONTEVIDEO (R) — Opposition candidate Luis Alberto Lacalle of the Blanco (National) Party was elected president in Uruguay's first free elections since 1971. "We are going to start work next Monday with all political and social forces," Lacalle, 48, said after governing Colorado Party candidate Jorge Battle conceded defeat. Lacalle, a rancher and lawyer, has promised to end economic stagnation and rising inflation byby privatisingtate companies, cutting government spending, encouraging a free market economy and negotiating a cut in the $1.8 billion foreign debt. "The country is hungry for an efficient and productive government," he told foreign journalists. The Colorado defeat was only the third for President Julio Maria Sanguinetti's party this century.

Storm dumps 4 feet of snow in U.S.

NEAR-BLIZZARD conditions blew into the Dakotas Monday from a storm that dumped up to 4 feet (122 centimetres) of snow from the sierras to the rockies. So much snow fell in Utah that a World Cup ski race was postponed. The snow delighted early-season recreational skiers but sent cars skidding off roads and into each other, prompted some avalanche warnings and caused power outrages. Icy roads were blamed for car crashes that killed three people in Montana Sunday. Some schools were closed in Minnesota Monday. Interstate highways and smaller roads were closed at times during the weekend, causing major traffic jams as Thanksgiving holiday travellers tried to return home.

Insurgency ending in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — A 41-year-old guerrilla insurgency by the Communist Party of Malaya (CPM) appears to be coming to a formal end. Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad told the government-owned Radio Malaysia Monday that an agreement on ending the insurgency would be signed Saturday in Thailand. Officials in Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok indicate that the legendary guerrilla leader Chin Peng is to sign an accord to dissolve the CPM and halt the armed struggle he began in 1948. Chin Peng, in his late 60s and believed to be living in China, was last seen outside the Communist World in 1955 when he emerged from the Malaysian jungle for negotiations on ending hostilities. Those talks were not successful. Although not an event to compare with the upheavals in Communist Eastern Europe, the formal end of the insurgency is a milestone for South East Asia.

Polish premier prays at Katyn

KATYN, USSR (AP) — Polish Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki Sunday led prayers over 4,300 Polish officers massacred during World War II in this snow-covered wood, an atrocity most Poles blame on the Soviets. Night had already fallen when Mazowiecki's voice echoed through the forest. "Let them lie in peace," he said as he stood in front of an 8-metre high wooden cross. For Mazowiecki and other members of his Solidarity-led government, the Roman Catholic mass at Katyn during their first visit to the Soviet Union was a national obligation. In a speech at a Kremlin dinner Friday, Mazowiecki said that in order for there to be true friendship between the two peoples, the full story of the massacre had to be told. Mazowiecki told a Moscow news conference he raised the issue of Katyn when he met Gorbachev Friday, and said "Mikhail Gorbachev knows the meaning this has for us, and we expect a clarification of this problem will occur."

COLUMN 8

Baby Shamu celebrates first birthday

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (AP) — A four-day party for Baby Shamu ended with the killer whale extinguishing a candle on her birthday cake with a playful squirt. "We've had a pretty exciting weekend here with her," said Thad Lacinak, director of animal training for Sea World of Texas. "She's quite a ham." The 1,100-pound (500-kilogramme) whale, who turned one Sunday, is the first Texas-born killer whale and the fifth born in the United States. The others were born at the Sea Worlds in California or Florida.

Santa doesn't exist, book says

TYSONS CORNER, Virginia (AP) — The Washington area's largest shopping mall says it goofed in allowing Santa Claus to give kids a book that offers a rude awakening: Santa doesn't exist. "It's just so absurd, the irony of it," said Linda Smyth, of Vienna, Virginia, a nurse who took her 4-year-old son, Logan to visit St. Nick last week at Tysons Corner Centre. "Here's Santa handing out the one thing saying he doesn't exist." After at least one mother complained, officials at Tysons Corner Centre pulled the book "a pee-wee Christmas" from Santa's sack and replaced it with stickers and fingerprinting kits. "What can I say?" Tysons General Manager Jim Foster told the Washington Post Sunday. "We screwed up."

Youth's science project is minicollider

DALLAS (AP) — While the U.S. government struggles to begin construction on the superconducting super collider in Texas, a 16-year-old Texan has built two minicolliders in his garage, using rubber bands to help generate electricity. "I've heard of kids putting something together from a kit — but this is something that requires a lot of motivation," said Wendell Chen, director of the Centre for Accelerator Services and Technology at the University of Texas at Arlington. Sometimes called atom smashers, the accelerators propel atoms together at great speeds and the tiny pieces of matter scattered by their collissions are studied by scientists trying to unlock secrets about nature's building blocks. The 85-kilometre-long super collider proposed for Waxaliachie, Texas, by 1998 will use huge magnets to drive atoms around its oval path. Electrostatic charges do the job on John Langridge's 122-centimetre model. Langridge, who plans a career as a physicst, obtained much of his parts from small scientific companies, but also has had to improvise. "It was tough to find a belt to drive my electrostatic generator, so I just used rubber bands," he said. He estimates he has spent $1,000 to build his minicolliders. That's about $5 billion less than it should cost to buld the federal government's underground complex near Waxahachie. Langridge's parents were concerned when they discovered he would be using radioactive materials in some of his experiments in the garage. Some of the chemicals he works with, such as Cesium 137, emit radiation and must be handled with protective equipment. "At first, my parents were scared that I might expose myself to radiation, but after they realised it was contained and that I knew how to handle it, they were OK," he said. Every time he walks into the garage to work with the accelerator, he wears a radiation-level monitoring device to avoid prolonged exposure.

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN. °C	MIN. °F	MAX. °C	MAX. °F	Weather
AMSTERDAM	04	39	09	48	Rain
ATHENS	10	50	16	61	Cloudy
BAHRAIN	23	73	27	81	Clear
BANGKOK	23	73	33	91	Clear
BUENOS AIRES	17	62	28	82	Cloudy
CAIRO	14	57	25	77	Clear
CHICAGO	04	40	10	51	Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	-02	28	04	39	Cloudy
FRANKFURT	00	32	02	36	Cloudy
GENEVA	-03	27	03	37	Cloudy
HONG KONG	21	70	24	75	Clear
ISTANBUL	02	36	05	41	Cloudy
LONDON	02	36	05	46	Clear
LOS ANGELES	11	53	22	72	Clear
MADRID	08	46	12	54	Rain
MECCA	23	73	34	93	Cloudy
MONTREAL	-06	21	03	37	Snow
MOSCOW	-20	-04	-14	07	Clear
NEW DELHI	13	55	23	74	Clear
NEW YORK	03	38	11	53	Rain
PARIS	-02	28	05	41	Clear
ROME	05	41	13	55	Clear
SYDNEY	17	63	23	73	Cloudy
TOKYO	08	46	13	55	Cloudy
VIENNA	00	32	03	37	Cloudy